



- 34 Urban Experience
- 37 Sports/Outdoors
- 38 See/Be Seen
- 39 Performance
- 40 DVDish

## Take Us Out

These days, every demographic has its own film festival. We just had the Latino culture-highlighting Vistas Film Festival in October and the Asian Film Festival of Dallas in August. There

being gay. Hey, maybe a gay guy doesn't have to be an Abercrombie model to find happiness. At the very least, the film breaks the usual shirtless disco-boy mold into a quality character dealing with the human condition. Who can't relate to that?

Alonso Duralde, author of *101 Must See Movies for Gay Men* (and former artistic

# 1 DAY

07

Monday

There are robots living in your house. Sure, they're not cool ones like *The Jetsons'* wisecracking housekeeper Rosie or the life-saving, computer-hacking, metal-but-cuddly R2D2. But they do heat your food, wash your clothes and record your favorite TV shows all season long. Yes, everyday appliances count as robots—as long as they're devices that can perform complicated and repetitive tasks. Meet more robots—some cooler than a toaster, some barely less primitive than Tinker Toys—during **Robots and Us**. Certain that robots are only a software or hardware upgrade away from taking over the world like in movies? Think again. According to Don Pohlman, project leader for this exhibit, which was developed by the Science Museum of Minnesota, "Even animals like cockroaches and ants are far more capable than the robots we know how to build today." See? Ants and cockroaches haven't taken over the world! Assuage your fears of robot domination in the exhibit's Robot Arena where you can move robots through mazes and the Leg Lab where you can learn how anatomical attributes affect walking. Then build your own basic robot—and plot your own earth takeover. The exhibit runs through January 4 at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, 1501 Montgomery St. Admission is \$6 to \$7. Call 1-888-255-9300.

08

Tuesday

Surviving a safari is never easy, but we have a few vital tips for adventurous travelers. First, be sure to pack your most versatile and dangerous weapon: the credit card. See, money talks, and sometimes it can sweet-talk you out of a rough spot. It's also helpful in winning a silent or live auction. Second, the proper attire

is a necessity. Black tie is required, so tuxes for men, and ladies, we suggest a loose, flowy, comfortable dress made of a breathable material—gotta have room for a Thanksgiving Day-like tummy stretch after all those samples of haute cuisine. All right, so our advice won't help for an African safari with lions, hippos and giraffes. But it is fitting for **Embark on a Culinary Safari**, a fund-raiser for the March of Dimes, care of the Signature Chefs of Dallas. Taste samples of cuisine by 20 of Dallas' celebrity chefs, then bid on prize packages that include having food prepared by the chefs. The event also features a cocktail reception and live entertainment. Tickets are \$300 for the Culinary Safari, which takes place starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Dallas, 300 Reunion Blvd. Call 972-669-3643.

09

Wednesday

Successful lawyer whose successful novels have been made into successful movies for screens big and small. You gotta hate **Scott Turow**. Not only did he write *Presumed Innocent* (starring Harrison Ford), *The Burden of Proof* (starring Hector Elizondo) and *Reversible Errors* (starring William H. Macy and Tom Selleck), but he also penned *One L* about his experiences at law school, a death penalty discussion called *Ultimate Punishment* and articles for publications such as *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. Did we mention he's handsome, rich and well-dressed? Love to hate him (or dream of being him) when he appears at the Writers Studio at the Karcher Auditorium and Storey Hall on the campus of Southern Methodist University at Hillcrest Avenue and Daniel Avenue. Call the Writer's Garret at 214-828-1715 for \$28 to \$34 tickets.

By Shannon Sutlief

is also the June-teenth Film Festival celebrating African-American movies and even the KidFilm festival. But it works. Think about it. Anybody will see a movie.

These film festivals prove to be a win-win situation for everybody. Viewers get to feel artsy and trendy by attending a *film festival*. The films make for great conversation over dinner at Paris Vendome or drinks at Nikita. But more important, audiences sample a filmscape they might never encounter—certainly not at any of the multiplexes, and heck, maybe not even at the art film houses in town. In turn, the festival hosts get the chance to, first, introduce films and filmmakers to a new audience and, second, use the festival as an opportunity to break down barriers and stereotypes. Snap—everybody's satisfied and culturally exposed for the better. Now it's **OUT TAKES Dallas'** turn with its seventh Annual Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. But the gay movie genre is a tricky one. There has yet to be that one gay or lesbian movie in which the stereotypes don't abound. In the truly independent film circle, cookie-cutter characters have become more than apparent. Nice guy with trusty gal pal falls for the hot sexy guy thinking he's the one. Innocent young girl automatically becomes lesbian when kissed by another girl. You get the idea.

By the looks of this year's roster, however, the times might be changing. One of many examples is the gem opening this year's festival, *29th and Gay*, by director Carrie Preston. It has been pegged as the movie for the gay Everyman (yes, they actually do exist). The movie follows a man rapidly approaching 30 without a boyfriend or rock-hard abs. The charm is not just in this normal guy with dating fears but also in his alignment to his Hispanic heritage and

director at the USA Film Festival), obviously understands the need for a little variety; his book includes recommendations that run the gamut from realistic drama to the campiest of camp. Duralde discusses and signs his movie guide and hosts a special screening of *Valley of the Dolls* (guess which category that one falls under) on November 10. We're guessing *Valley* offers a bit of familiar territory for most, and Duralde's book can help with withdrawal symptoms post-festival.

Now obviously, it would be impossible to give attention to every film **OUT TAKES Dallas** is screening, but suffice it to say the bases are covered. *Do I Look Fat?*, *Slutty Summer*, *Hate Crime*, *Gay Sex in the '70s*, *Never Rob a Bank With Someone You Love*, *We Are Dad*, *Original Pride: The Satyrs Motorcycle Club*, *Hitch Cock* and *A Different Kind of War* are just a few titles but ones that indicate that this is not your grandmother's stereotypically gay film fest. Sure, teen girl *will* probably experiment and nice guy with gal pal *will* most likely get his heart trampled. But serious topics will be broached. Laughs will ensue. Documentaries, shorts and features will abound. And maybe Duralde will find a treasure that will demand a new book: *102 Must See Movies...* But the best thing about **OUT TAKES Dallas**? Where else will you find movies titled *Billy's Dad is a Fudge Packer* or *Taco Chick and Salsa Girl*? —Rich Lopez

**OUT TAKES Dallas screens 71 films from November 4 through November 13 at the Magnolia, 3699 McKinney Ave. Prices vary per screening. Out Passes are available for \$100 and allow admission to all screenings. Call 972-988-6333 or visit [www.outtakesdallas.org](http://www.outtakesdallas.org).**



29th and Gay