



Hi there,

It's that time of year again and the 2010 New Zealand International Film Festival is rapidly approaching. We are delighted to have now confirmed our programme and eager to inform you of the wonderful selection of gay, lesbian and transgender related films that we hope will interest you.

This year, in our documentary section we have **Gordon Crook: A Life of Art**, **Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work**, and **Strange Powers: Stephin Merritt and the Magnetic Fields**. We also have a great selection of feature films including the award winning **I Killed My Mother**, **To Die Like a Man**, **The Runaways**, **HOWL**, **Undertow**, and the much talked about comedy **I Love You**, **Phillip Morris** starring Ewan McGregor and Jim Carrey.

Please read the information attached to find out more about this selection of titles. Screening information for Auckland, Wellington and Dunedin sessions are currently available in our programme brochures and on our website ([www.nzff.co.nz](http://www.nzff.co.nz)). The Christchurch schedule will be available online from Monday 5 July. Further screenings in other cities will be announced as the programme is launched in each region. Please see our website for more information.

I would also like to let you know that we offer a special Group Discount for bookings of 20 tickets or more per session. Tickets are on sale for Auckland and Wellington now, Dunedin on Friday 2 July and other regions will be soon to follow after that. Our programme brochure and website contain further ticketing and venue information. I always advise the public to book in advance to avoid any disappointment (especially for large groups that want to sit together).

Lastly, we would greatly appreciate your support in spreading the word about these films. If you or any of your networks have a publication, (e-)newsletter, website or other forms of online communication, and you would like to include some information about these films, I would be more than happy to supply you with images and screening details.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.

Thank you and kind regards,

Laura Honey  
Special Interest Co-Ordinator  
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### New Zealand International Film Festival 2010

Auckland, July 8 – 25  
Wellington, July 16 – August 1  
Dunedin, July 23 – August 8  
Christchurch, July 29 – August 15  
Palmerston North, August 5 – 22  
Hamilton, August 12 – 29  
Napier, August 18 – September 5  
Tauranga, August 26 – September 8  
New Plymouth, September 2 – 15  
Nelson, September 9 – 23  
Greymouth, October 4 – 10  
Masterton, October 13 – 27  
Gisborne, October 28 – November 10  
Whangarei, November 4 – 17  
Kerikeri, November 11 – 24

For more information and extra updates, check out our website at [www.nzff.co.nz](http://www.nzff.co.nz). You can sign up to 'My Festival' and receive the first word on all the latest Festival updates including title announcements, visiting filmmakers and not to mention fantastic Festival-related competitions and giveaways. You can also keep in touch with The 2010 New Zealand International Film Festival via [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

#### THE NEW ZEALAND FILM FESTIVAL TRUST

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## DOCUMENTARIES

### ***Gordon Crook: A Life in Art***

New Zealand 2010, 60 mins  
Director: Clare O'Leary

The artist Gordon Crook invites us into the worlds that inspire him, from the metaphysical to the natural. Interviews with his friend Edith Ryan, former student printmaker Malcolm Cocks, and long-time friend and art dealer Janne Land testify further to his antic, enlivening spirit.



### ***Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work***

USA 2010, 85 mins

Directors: Ricki Stern, Annie Sundberg  
Festivals: Sundance, San Francisco, Tribeca 2010

Flamboyant exhibitionism and stoic masochism have rarely been more visibly wired together in a performer's dynamo than in this funny, complex portrait, onstage and off, of comedian Joan Rivers.

"Pioneer comedian. Plastic-surgery freak. Red-carpet maven. Foul-mouthed shock artist. No matter how you think of her, *Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work* is likely to expand your idea of who, exactly, Joan Rivers is." - Rachel Rosen, San Francisco International Film Festival



### ***Strange Powers: Stephin Merritt and the Magnetic Fields***

USA 2010, 89 mins  
Directors: Kerthy Fix, Gail O'Hara  
Festivals: SXSW 2010

Stephin Merritt may be the greatest American songwriter you've never heard of. renowned for his deadpan demeanour, he has been called 'the grumpiest man alive' by nonplussed interviewers, but this affectionate film, shot over ten years, draws him out of his shell.



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## FEATURES

### HOWL

USA 2009, 90 mins

Director: Rob Epstein

Festivals: Sundance, Berlin 2010

In San Francisco in 1957 Allen Ginsberg's epochal (and enduring) poem "Howl" was put on trial for obscenity.

Ron Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman (*The Life and Times of Harvey Milk*) have made an intelligent, impassioned, multi-layered film about the trial, the poem and the poet as harbingers of social revolution in America.



### *I Killed My Mother*

*J'ai tué ma mère*

Canada 2009, 100 mins

Director: Xavier Dolan

Festivals: Cannes (Directors' Fortnight), Toronto, Vancouver 2009; Rotterdam, New Directors/New Films 2010

**Best Canadian Feature, Vancouver International Film Festival**

"A stunning, semi-autobiographical tour de force... it is a film with the sting of shrewdly observed truth... Hubert (Dolan) is a petulant, floppy-haired adolescent who has grown to hate every single aspect of his mother's life from the messy way she eats to the horrible fashion faux pas that constitute her wardrobe. He isn't shy about telling her. Arguments become shouting matches with Hubert displaying the kind of uncontrollable rage that would have done the late Klaus Kinski proud." - Allan Hunter, *Screendaily*

In French with English Subtitles



### *To Die Like a Man*

Portugal/ France 2009,  
133 mins

Director: João Pedro Rodrigues

Festivals: Cannes (Un Certain Regard), Toronto, New York, Vancouver 2009; San Francisco 2010

Staggering and indescribably strange, João Pedro Rodrigues' tale of a Lisbon drag queen's late gender-identity crisis sets us up for grunge, angst and melodrama. And then draws us into a woodland fantasia where the spirits of Lewis Carroll and Oscar Wilde seem to preside, and the forest itself is in drag, uncertain of its true nature.



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## *I Love You, Phillip Morris*

USA 2009, 103 mins

Directors: Glenn Ficarra, John Requa  
Festivals: Sundance, Cannes (Directors' Fortnight) 2009

Jim Carrey as the flamboyant real-life con artist Steven Russell and Ewan McGregor as the quiet, camp boyfriend for whom he'd say or do pretty much anything are one of the last year's funniest, most strangely romantic couples. *I Love You, Phillip Morris*, written and directed by the pair who wrote *Bad Santa*, is a bold, hilarious, truly anarchic joyride.



"This is not an asinine Oscar grab, but one of the sharpest, blackest and funniest comedies of the year." — Empire

## *The Runaways*

USA 2010, 109 mins

Director: Floria Sigismondi  
Festivals: Sundance, SXSW 2010

"*The Runaways* tells the story of its namesake band – the all-girl teen band that launched Joan Jett's career in the 1970s. It tells the age-old tale of sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll, but with the twist that it's all from a young woman's perspective... Aggressive, raw, and amped up on frenetic – and sexual – hunched-punk intensity, Stewart's Jett smokes, snorts, and struts with abandon... Then there's Fanning as Currie, the kittenish blonde who fronts the band like a female crossbreed of Ziggy Stardust and Keith Richards... The sheer force of the girl-power energy... combined with the contagious ferocity of the music will leave you jumpy – in a good way." — Andi Teran, *Vanity Fair*



## *Undertow* *Contracorriente*

Peru/Colombia/France/  
Germany 2009, 100mins  
Director: Javier Fuentes-León  
Festivals: San Sebastián 2009;  
Sundance 2010

**Audience Award (World Cinema),  
Sundance Film Festival 2010**

Favoured with the Audience Award at Sundance in January, this sun-drenched fable tells of Miguel, a small-town fisherman intent on sustaining the attentions of his adoring, increasingly bewildered wife and the handsome, bohemian outsider who becomes his lover.

In Spanish with English subtitles



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