



aGLIFF



CELEBRATING 22 YEARS
as the oldest and largest LGBTQI film festival in the southwest

austin gay & lesbian
international film festival

September 8 - 13, 2009

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

aGLIFF Welcomes its Own New President

Calvin Williams takes the reins of the Premier LGBTQI International Film Festival of the Southwest

AUSTIN, TX – It is official! Calvin Williams, long-time supporter and board member of aGLIFF has been elected to serve as President of the Austin-based film festival. Calvin is replacing outgoing three-term President Alisa Weldon who helped oversee the successful transition of aGLIFF into a nonprofit organization and the creation of the annual BLOOM event.

Calvin, a fan of gay films since he saw two men kiss in *MAKING LOVE* when he was 17, has avidly supported aGLIFF as a festival participant since 1989 and jumped headfirst onto the board only one week before the 2006 festival. He is thrilled to channel his experience as an educator and administrator into his role as President of an organization that brings the LGBTQI community together through film.

"I appreciate my fellow board members for their confidence and support by electing me President," Calvin said immediately after the confirmation vote. "I am excited to help steer aGLIFF as it maintains its distinction as the premier LGBTQI international film festival in the southwest."

In addition to this change in leadership, aGLIFF has recently added several new staff and board members. This infusion of new blood and ideas has inspired the creation of several new educational programs and the expansion of the film and arts activities of the organization.

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aGLIFF premiered in 1987 as a festival that included only five films screened over seven evenings at the Dobie Theater. By 2000, the festival had grown to include 150 films and videos from 14 countries. In 2003, attendance reached a record-breaking 16,000 people! Today, aGLIFF continues to be *the* largest gay and lesbian cultural event in Austin.

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