Joining Together While Being Apart

We hope that you and your loved ones are staying healthy and making the most of your extra time at home. Here at ImageOut our team of volunteers is hard at work preparing for our annual Festival in October. Like every organization, we are adapting to meet this challenging situation and making decisions about future events. We have canceled our spring activities and may need to do the same with some or all of our summer events. This year’s Festival is planned for October 8-18, 2020, and we are committed to making it a reality.

We don’t know what the future holds, but we do know that our time together each October is incredibly valuable. We’re really looking forward to seeing all of you and enjoying 10 days of LGBTQ cinema together. In order to safeguard everyone’s wellbeing, some things may look different and some events may need to be re-thought or scaled down. We will remain in close contact with our theater venues about possible capacity adjustments or logistical changes. And yes, it is possible that this situation may dictate that we cancel or postpone the Festival. We’re hoping that won’t be the case, but we’ll be ready if it does.

In the meantime, there are ways that you can stay connected with the ImageOut community. We have launched a new series, ImageOutPost, creating virtual gathering opportunities when we can’t be together physically. ImageOutPost will include exclusive film premieres, film discussions, ImageOutWrite readings, and more. Many of our ImageOut films from the last 27 years are available to watch at home. We have been posting on our Facebook page descriptions of past Festival films and information about how you can stream them for home viewing and will continue posting until we are able to come together again.

Looking forward to being with you in October (hopefully sooner)!

ImageOutPost
Where the ImageOut community gathers online.

ImageOut kicked off our ImageOutPost Series with a revealing and insightful Talk Back with CIRCUS OF BOOKS director Rachel Mason – A Facebook Live Event. CIRCUS OF BOOKS was part of our 2019 Festival and had its Netflix premiere in April. You can view the conversation led by Michael Gamilla, ImageOut’s Programming Director, on our Facebook page.

Contact ImageOut:
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Email: office@imageout.org

ImageOut Office: 274 North Goodman St., Suite A203, Rochester, NY 14607

ImageOut’s 28th Annual Film Festival October 8-18, 2020

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An Interview with Rochester’s Award-Winning Author
Georgia Beers is a Simple Girl at Heart

Early this spring we got to know Georgia Beers, an award-winning local author of lesbian romance fiction and short stories. Georgia has just over 30 books published; with one just released this month! Check out her interview here.

You have a new book out! What are the juiciest parts?
Haha! You get right to it, don’t you? I do have a new book out. It’s called Flavor of the Month and it’s a combination second chance romance and story of redemption.

And yes, there are some juicy parts... some involving pie, some involving the two main characters... you’ll have to read it to see.

How do you approach writing romance novels, it can be a powerful genre.
It absolutely can be powerful, and it’s often an escape for the reader. A chance to leave behind the stress of their real life just for a little while and go on the journey of falling in love. So, I try to remember that when I begin: that we’re about to take a journey, and that I want my readers to feel all the emotions along the way. Because that’s what a romance is about. It’s not about the happily ever after – everybody knows there will be one. It’s about getting to the happily ever after. How and by what path and what about these obstacles. It’s the journey.

What do you hope to be doing 10 years from now?
I honestly hope to still be doing what I’m doing, to still be crafting romances between women. It’s something I’ve been doing for a long time now, and I love it. I can’t imagine doing anything else. That being said, I’d love to have one of my books go to screen or TV or webseries, as there are so many more possibilities and opportunities now than there have ever been. Fingers crossed for a stroke of luck like that! In the meantime, I will keep writing.

When you are not writing, how do you like to relax?
It’s interesting because the ways I usually decompress or relax – reading, watching Netflix and movies – are getting a serious workout during this weird time in the world. I love, love, love movies. I watch way too many of them, especially with so many available to me while I sit on my behind on the couch! And since I do draw inspiration from them, I don’t feel all that guilty about the amount of time I spend watching. I like to walk. My dog is older now, so we don’t walk as vigorously as we used to, but we walk. I take a spin class several times a week to try and stay strong. There’s a wine bar not far from my apartment and I like to visit there, taste and learn about wine, catch some live music on occasion. Really, I’m a pretty simple girl.

Is there one character in your books you can related to best?
You know, that should be a simple question, but it’s really not, because I think there’s a little bit of me in every one of my main characters. It’s never intentional... in fact, it’s more unintentional than anything. But I don’t think it can be avoided. It happens organically and I often don’t realize it until the book is finished and I’m in final edits. I’ll be reading along and think, “Oh, that’s exactly what I would have done/said/thought, too!” So, to answer your question, no, there isn’t any one character I relate to the most, because they all have elements of me. So on some level, I can relate to them all, though admittedly, some more than others.

On a Saturday night, what can we find you enjoying? Do you cook?
I want to cook. Does that count? I don’t love to cook. I really, really want to love it, but I just don’t. I will never starve, but I can’t just wing a meal, a little of this, a dash of that. I’m terrible at it. I do have a meal delivery service and it tells me exactly what to do, so I can make a decent meal, and I’m usually proud of myself when I finish it. But... I don’t love it, sadly. That being said, I do bake and I enjoy that. I’m a rules girl and baking is all about following the rules (recipe). But to answer your question, a Saturday night will find me likely at the wine bar I mentioned earlier, at my mother’s house, or home with my animals watching something on TV or reading a book.

What is your approach to being happy?
I think you just have to choose it. Choose to be happy. It’s so easy – especially now – to let worry and stress weigh on us. And don’t get me wrong, I’m not saying we shouldn’t be worried. I am worried and I am stressed about the current state of the world. But I think a large piece of being happy comes from being kind. If more people simply chose to be kind to each other, happiness might not seem so elusive.

Continued on next page.
Heather Hedges Joins the ImageOut Board of Directors

Heather is a recent graduate from Rochester Institute of Technology. She discovered Rochester during her college tour in high school and fell in love with the city that has such rich history. She currently works for EFPR as a staff auditor and is pursuing her CPA.

Some of her past activities in Rochester include serving as Assistant Treasurer for Roc City Roller Derby and volunteering at the Center for Youth as a phone volunteer. She loves movies because it's a shared experience that invites us to explore beyond life as we know it. During her free time she likes to learn languages, cook, and rock climb. She is most looking forward to bringing others together to celebrate LGBT life around the world.

ImageOutWrite Seeks Prose & Poetry Submissions for 9th Edition

Deadline: June 15, 2020
ImageOut invites LGBTQ authors and allies to submit original literary works to be considered for publication in the 9th edition of the ImageOutWrite literary journal. Join the legacy of published ImageOutWrite authors, including Georgia Beers, Bryan Borland, Jeff Mann, Jameson Currier, Tony Leuzzi, and more. Volume #9 (editor, JoNelle ‘J.R.’ Toriseva) will be published during this year’s 28th ImageOut Film Festival.

Rules:
• There is no entry fee.
• All work must be original and unpublished.
• Submissions should seek to capture some aspect of LGBTQ lives.
• Prose Limit: 8,000 words
• Poetry Limit: 3 poems/500 total words

Submissions:
• Submissions due June 15, 2020
• Electronic submissions only (.doc, .docx, .rtf, .txt) in 12 pt, double-spaced font
• Submissions must include cover sheet with author’s name, street address, email, title of submission, and author bio (50 words max).
• Rights revert to author after publication.
• Email submissions to: outwrite@imageout.org

Dates and Deadlines:
• June 15, 2020 - Submission Deadline
• August 3, 2020 - Authors Selected for Publication Notified via email
• August 10, 2020 - Authors Confirm Participation
• October 8-18, 2020 ImageOut Film Festival
Our Connection With You Is More Important Than Ever

ImageOut delivers worldly films, engaging art, creative literature, and community events throughout the year in person, and now virtually. As a member, you benefit from special perks! They are discounted tickets, priority admission to screenings, special saving opportunities, fun swag, and invitations to social events year round.

In this time of unfamiliarity, becoming an ImageOut supporting member (Gaffer level and above) will aide ImageOut in this time of financial disruption. Continuing to provide our fabulous Festival for our community in October, is an autumn highlight we are optimistic for. Your support is essential in making ImageOut the premier community and volunteer organization that it is.

Contact the ImageOut Office today or return the membership form to renew or begin your membership. Please reach out with questions or special requests at office@imageout.org or 585-271-2640.

Interested in Making a Monthly Pledge?

We can set up an installment plan that meets your needs and helps you reach your membership goal. If you started now, a pledge of $50 a month adds up to a $250 membership gift by the October Festival – entitling you to all the perks of a Celebrity Member! We can break up your donation pledge any way that works for you. To set up an installment plan, contact Pamela at the ImageOut office at 585-271-2640 or by sending an email to: office@imageout.org.

Renew or Become a New Member: fill out the form below and mail it to ImageOut, 274 North Goodman Street, Suite A203, Rochester, NY 14607. You can also become a member by calling the ImageOut office at 585-271-2640 or online at www.imageout.org

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Please charge my membership to my credit card:
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