

# October Calendar

- **7th**—First Fridays Happy Hour at The Bistro
- **7th and 28th**—Open Door Youth Center; meal at 6:30 p.m. at the AIDS Taskforce building—313 N. Main Street, Bloomington
- **14th**—Hotspot talent showcase at the Bistro—316 N. Main Street, Bloomington
- **20th**—McLean County AIDS Taskforce Wellness Group; meal at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m. at the Task Force building
- **22nd**—MenN2Men Group meets at 7 p.m. at the McLean County AIDS Taskforce building—313 N. Main Street, Bloomington
- **29th**—Halloween party at the Bistro! 316 N. Main Street, Bloomington
- **Tuesdays**—The Heartland Metropolitan Community Church meets at the McLean County AIDS Taskforce building at 7 p.m. for study, prayer, community and discussion. 313 N. Main Street, Bloomington.

## Don't Miss It!

Don't miss the November edition of the *Rainbow Connection*, when we'll be covering the following upcoming events ... mark your calendars now for these great social and community opportunities!

- **Artists Against AIDS**—the McLean County AIDS Taskforce is sponsoring this event on **Friday, Nov. 4** at the taskforce building to help in the funding their work. Artists interested in showing artwork at the event are encouraged to e-mail [artists@mcatf.org](mailto:artists@mcatf.org).
- ACHR and the ACLU are co-sponsoring a **discussion on the rights of same-sex couples to adopt children** on **Wednesday, Nov. 2** at 7 p.m. at the Bloomington Public Library Community Room—205 E. Olive Street, Bloomington. The discussion is inspired by the case of adoption agency Catholic Charities vs. the State of Illinois.
- The second annual **Interfaith Equality Round Table Breakfast** and discussion is scheduled for **Thursday, Nov. 17** at 9:30 a.m. at the Bloomington Public Library Community Room. RSVP to Caroline Staerk—[cstaerk@equil.org](mailto:cstaerk@equil.org)

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Sunday Worship Service 10 AM  
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(Continued from page 1) following 44 years of marriage came out of the closet at age 75 to live a full, energized, and wonderfully tumultuous gay life.

**Sunday at 3 p.m. — *The Birdcage*** — Join us as we celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Robin Williams, Nathan Lane, and Hank Azaria chewing up the scenery in this 1996 farcical comedy.

**Sunday at 7 p.m. — *The Topp Twins: Untouchable Girls***— Part biopic, part historical record, part comedy, completely entertaining; an award winning documentary of New Zealand's (and the world's) only comedic, country singing, dancing, yo-deling, lesbian twin sisters.

Festival fans will be treated to a free, post-festival screening of the documentary *I Am the Queen* at 7 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 10. This screening, sponsored by ISU University Galleries and the ISU Latin American and Latino Studies program, follows youth participating in a community-centered beauty pageant designed to raise HIV awareness in the Humboldt Park area of Chicago. The film follows participants as they navigate the tumult of competition while uncovering many of the struggles faced by the transgender community. On hand at the screening will be the film's co-director, Josue Pelot.

Your Normal LGBT Film Festival was established in 2010 to create a showcase for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender stories and arts to entertain, inspire and grow the number of central Illinois fans and champions.

For more information about the festival, visit the festival's Facebook page at <http://tinyurl.com/yournormalgbtfilmfestivalfb>, the festival web site at [www.yournormalfilmfest.com](http://www.yournormalfilmfest.com), and the Normal Theater web site at [www.normaltheater.com](http://www.normaltheater.com).

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# The Rainbow Connection

October, 2011

The Rainbow Connection is published by the Advocacy Council for Human Rights (ACHR). Send correspondence to P.O. Box 5048, Bloomington, IL 61702-5048, or e-mail [info@achr-il.com](mailto:info@achr-il.com)

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## Your Normal LGBT Film Festival is Here!

The Advocacy Council for Human Rights and the Normal Theater are thrilled to announce the kickoff of the second annual "Your Normal LGBT Film Festival" on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> at the Normal Theater, located at 209 North Street in Uptown Normal.

Following the enthusiastic response to last year's premiere, festival organizers have expanded this year's event to six nights, and have added two weekend matinees. All screenings will be preceded by a different LGBT short film.

Other features of the festival include a vote to select the Audience Favorite Award Winning film, and as always at the Normal Theater, drawings for prizes.

The festival will kick off with a free, special pre-festival screening of *This is My Journey* at 7 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 3. The locally-produced documentary chronicles the lives of three local transgender people and tells their stories. The subjects of the film will be on hand for a question-and-answer session following the screening.

The festival runs from Monday, October 4 through Sunday, Oct. 9 and the lineup includes:

**Tuesday at 7 p.m. — *We Were Here***. Released this year to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first reported cases of AIDS/HIV, *We Were Here* tracks the epidemic from its early days in San Francisco and grippingly recounts how the disease took the lives of many of the best and brightest in the gay community.

**Wednesday at 7 p.m. — *Wish Me Away***. This award winning film started as a look at country singer Chely Wright's career, but became a personal story of finding one's place in the world. After a lifetime of hiding, Wright becomes the first commercial country music singer to come out as gay, shattering cultural stereotypes within Nashville, her conservative heartland family and, most importantly, within herself.

**Thursday at 7 p.m. — *Circumstance***. An award winning drama set in Iran. Two sixteen year-old girls explore friendship and love in a totalitarian theocracy. What could possibly go wrong?

**Friday at 7 p.m. — *The Wise Kids***  
ISU alum Sadieh Rifai stars in this award winning coming-of-age drama set in and around a Charleston, South

Carolina Baptist church. Lead actor Tyler Ross and producer Laura Stein will be on hand for a question-and-answer session following the screening.

**Saturday at 3 p.m. — *Tomboy***

In this French drama 10-Year-old Laure, in need of friends in a new neighborhood outside Paris, decides to introduce herself as a boy.

**Saturday at 7 p.m. — *Beginners***

*Beginners* imaginatively explores the hilarity, confusion, and surprises of love. Oliver (Ewan McGregor) meets the irreverent and unpredictable Anna only months after his father Hal (Academy Award nominee Christopher Plummer) has passed away. This new love floods Oliver with memories of his father who

*Story continued on page 4*

## Your Normal GLBT Film Festival

*Handy clip-and-save schedule*

**Monday, Oct. 3—*This is My Journey*, 7 p.m.**

**Tuesday, Oct. 4—*We Were Here*, 7 p.m.**

**Wednesday, Oct. 5—*Wish Me Away*, 7 p.m.**

**Thursday, Oct. 6—*Circumstance*, 7 p.m.**

**Friday, Oct. 7—*The Wise Kids*, 7 p.m.**

**Saturday, Oct. 8—*Tomboy*, 3 p.m.; *Beginners*, 7 p.m.**

**Sunday, Oct. 9—*The Birdcage*, 3 p.m.; *The Topp Twins: Untouchable Girls*, 7 p.m.**

## Rainbow Connection

### Ugandan Minister to speak in Bloomington-Normal



Rev. Mark Kiyimba, the founder and minister of the Unitarian Universalist New Life Church in Klampala, Uganda,

will be speaking at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington-Normal on Sunday, Oct. 2 at 7 p.m.

Rev. Kiyimba runs a school and orphanage for children afflicted with AIDS as well as performing the ministerial duties at his church.

He is currently touring the United States to raise awareness of the persecution that LGBT people in his country face every day.

As an article in the *Arkansas Times* put it, "Much of Uganda is in the grip of a violent paroxysm of homophobia - a

bizarre, collective mental illness that reaches to the upper echelons of the government."

Homosexuality is considered a crime in Uganda, and the country's parliament is now attempting to make it a capital offense.

During Rev. Kiyimba's Oct. 2 visit, he will speak about the New Life School, his church's work with children, and the plight of LGBT people in Uganda.

The Unitarian-Universalist Church of Bloomington-Normal is located at 1613 East Emerson Street in Bloomington.

### GLBT Christian Artist Justin Ryan to perform

GLBT Christian recording artist Justin Ryan has included a stop in Springfield on his new youth-inspired concert series/tour called "I've Been There," and will be performing at the Heartland Metropolitan Community Church in Springfield on Saturday, Oct. 15 at 7 p.m.

The concert tour is inspired by the overwhelming number of GLBT youth suicides provoked by bullying and rejection in the past several years.

As a child, Justin Ryan learned from and performed with Southern Gospel greats like Vestal Goodman. After



his family abandoned him at 17, groundbreaking contemporary Christian songwriter Marsha Stevens-Pino ("Come To The Water (For Those Tears I Died)") took him under her wing. He has also recorded with the likes of Porter Wagoner, George Jones, Lynn Anderson, LuLu Roman and Dottie Rambo. Now, with the release of his first mainstream country album, Justin Ryan steps out front to chart the course for where he's going.

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#### ISU LGBT/Queer Studies Open House

The ISU LGBT/Queer Studies and Services Institute will be hosting an informational open house on Saturday, Oct. 15 from noon to 3 p.m. at the Professional Development Annex, located at 205 S. Main Street in Normal.

The Institute was formed to support LGBTQ people and their allies, and to promote LGBTQ studies. Guests of the open house will learn more about the program, meet the people involved, have a chance to see the space, and find out ways to get involved with the community.

October, 2011

### Local church to show *Prayers for Bobby*

By Adam Gray

In his time, Jesus defended the social and religious outcasts. He would most likely be caught hanging out with the prostitutes on the corner rather than the evangelicals in their mega-churches. Today a plethora of churches have specialized in condemning those that live life differently than "mainstream" America.

Many of today's Christians have missed the point of what the Bible and Christianity are about: love of God and love of people, unconditionally. Some of the most damage the Church has done is within the GLBTQ community. How so many people have taken so few bible verses out of context and managed to use them to destroy the faiths of such good people astounds me.

It's time for the Church to preach less about judgment and more about tolerance and acceptance. Her sole duty is to proclaim the Truth of God's Word and to bring ALL to

salvation through Jesus.

Wondering what the Bible really says? Open Worship Church of Hope will be presenting the movie *Prayers for Bobby* with a Q & A session following the movie. It will be October, 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the church, located at 722 W. Chestnut Street, Bloomington.

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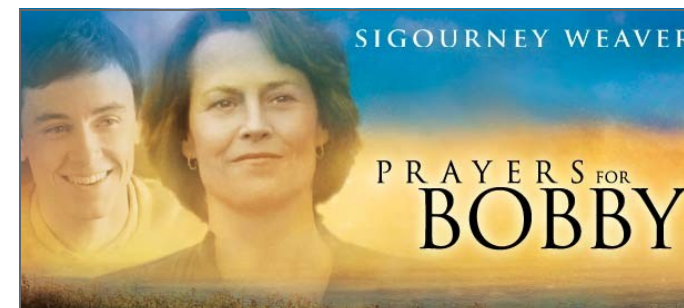
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### LGBT-supportive authors to visit area for book signings

Two prominent LGBT-supporting authors will be making their way through Central Illinois this month. **Jimmy Creech**, a former minister who was defrocked for marrying same-sex couples, will be speaking at the University of Illinois-Springfield Public Affairs Center on Tuesday, Oct. 4 at 6 p.m. He will also be signing copies of his book, *Adam's Gift: A Memoir of a Pastor's Calling to Defy the Church's Persecution of Lesbians and Gays*.

Decatur native **Vincent Meis**, author of *Eddie's Desert Rose*, will be on hand to sign copies of his latest novel at Haines and Essick, located at 130 East William Street in Decatur on Tuesday, Oct. 4 from noon to 1:30 p.m.



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