



PRESENTS

FirstOUT 3

ANOTHER COLLECTION OF
AWARD-WINNING GAY-THEMED SHORT FILMS



Approx. 79 Minutes

Color

Street Date: January 6, 2009

Suggested Retail Price: \$22.95

SKU: D5008

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alluvial Filmworks Releases Its Strongest Collection of Gay Short Films Yet

Third Installment of Best-selling *FirstOUT* Series Continues with a Variety of Award-Winning Content



Los Angeles, California — November 18, 2008 — Alluvial Filmworks' best-selling annual gay short film DVD series continues with its third installment *FirstOUT 3* available in stores on January 6, 2009. With a gripping mystery, a coming of age story, a sexy lighthearted comedy and a tale of innocent youth, *FirstOUT 3* continues its tradition of providing a variety of content reflecting stories that the gay community can relate to.

Major retailers including **Blockbuster, Amazon.com, Virgin Megastore, TLA Video, Book of the Month Club, Borders, Logo Online Shop** and **Netflix** as well as local community retailers throughout the world carry the first two releases of *FirstOUT* given the strong performance of the DVDs.

FirstOUT 3 begins with Anthony Meindl's film *Ready? OK!*. Loosely based on his own childhood struggles with acceptance, Meindl has created a heartwarming story that many can identify with. It placed as a finalist in this year's Planet Out Scion Viewer's Choice Short Film Awards.

Next, Nick Oceano presents his film *El Primo (The Cousin)* about a sheltered, sensitive teenager in Laredo, Texas whose world is turned upside down when a simple night of partying with his rougher, older cousin becomes a night of self-revelation. *El Primo* has garnered the award for Best American-Latino Short from the Downtown Film Festival in Los Angeles and was honored as one of the Best of Fest in this year's Outfest Film Festival in Los Angeles.

Adam Lipsius' intense thriller *4° (Four Degrees)* follows. The film tells the story of a man who is accused of a crime he did not commit. This realistically terrifying depiction of an interrogation creates an awareness of those occurring every day. The film won the Institute for Humane Studies Film/Fiction Award for its strong production and impressive storyline.

FirstOUT 3 finishes with *Coffee*, a lighthearted comedy by Todd Bartoo. In this sexy and hilarious film, a group of friends hatch a plan to separate rumor from fact, which ends up much hotter than they ever anticipated.

The suggested retail price of *FirstOUT 3* is \$22.98 and the running time is approximately 79 minutes. High-resolution imagery and an extensive press kit with additional information about the short films are available at www.villagelighthouse.com/firstout3. The DVD is available for prebooking online at 10percent.com and Amazon.com and will also be available at local community retailers upon release. **Screeners are available upon request.**

ABOUT ALLUVIAL FILMWORKS

Alluvial Filmworks is an entertainment distribution division of Village Lighthouse, Inc. With a program library including feature-length films, short film compilations, stage shows and television series, Alluvial Filmworks prides itself in offering hard-to-find content through its international DVD, broadcast, download-to-own and video-on-demand distribution. And while its collection includes award-winning titles, Alluvial Filmworks believes firmly in its mission to share work from artists whose impressive skills have yet to be widely discovered.

ABOUT VILLAGE LIGHTHOUSE

Village Lighthouse, Inc. is a leading manufacturer, distributor and retailer of gay and lesbian oriented merchandise. Its wholesale divisions, including **Alluvial Filmworks** and **10%**, distribute greeting cards, calendars, photobooks, posters, postcards, movies, magnets, cologne, male pheromones and other paper products internationally to over 500 accounts. Village Lighthouse's retail divisions include **10percent.com**, the leading online shopping destination for the gay community, and **OutGreetings** (outgreetings.com), an e-card and event planning service that caters to the gay and lesbian community. For more information about Village Lighthouse and its divisions, visit its corporate website at VillageLighthouse.com.



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Film Synopses

El Primo (The Cousin)

LOGLINE:

A sheltered, sensitive teenager visits his tough, older cousin in Laredo, Texas and learns a hard lesson about what it means to be a man.

SYNOPSIS:

Mark, a sheltered, sensitive teenager reunites with Louis, his tough, older cousin who lives on the rough side of Laredo, Texas. At first, Mark wants only to impress his cousin, but Luis quickly sees through his façade. Luis decides to break him out of his shell by taking him for a night out on the bad side of town. Mark reluctantly goes along for the ride, but soon loosens up and the two bond like they did when they were boys. But before the night is over, Mark's sheltered world is cracked wide open, and he learns a hard lesson about what it means to be a man.

Ready? OK!

LOGLINE:

A comedic coming-of-age story about an 11-year old boy as he learns that it's "OK to be yourself."

SYNOPSIS:

11-year old Tommy discovers that fitting in isn't as easy as it seems. He doesn't want to play baseball or basketball. Instead, he's more interested in doing a triple salchow on ice-skates than making a free throw. Meanwhile, he's just discovered his latest passion – cheerleading. Tommy decides to test his artistic passions in public and auditions for the cheerleading squad. Will Tommy make the squad? Will he be laughed out of school? This short film reaches a hilarious conclusion and reminds us of what it is to be true to yourself no matter what the world thinks of you.

4°(Four Degrees)

LOGLINE:

An intense thriller in which a man is accused of a crime he did not commit.

SYNOPSIS:

The police suspect Philip Long of multiple murders. Murders he knows nothing about. But the people Philip loves most are dead, and his secrets could be to blame. Lieutenant Wilma Kittle and Detective Mike Young uncover Philip Long's hidden life and lay bare the brutal crimes he's accused of; but they wrestle with one another and the facts to decide what is true. Truth itself and the standards of interrogation become suspect in this gritty, realistic film inspired by actual events. Are you guilty? It's a question of degrees: 4° (Four Degrees).

Coffee

LOGLINE:

When Polly, John, and Jane meet for Coffee, as usual the talk turns to guys, but this time they're about to find out that the coffee's not the only thing that's hot.

SYNOPSIS:

When Polly, John, and Jane meet for coffee, as usual the talk turns to guys, and more specifically Polly's ex-boyfriend Chris. It turns out that Polly has a delicious bit of gossip about Chris and why they broke up. Or is it just a rumor? John and Jane hatch a plan to find out for themselves. Why does Chris' friend Alex hate Polly so much? Is Jim just stoned again? And is Jane ready for a new guy? Either way, they're all about to find out that the coffee's not the only thing that's hot, hot, hot!

EL PRIMO (THE COUSIN)

El Primo (The Cousin) – Accolades

- Winner: Best American-Latino Short: Downtown Film Festival, Los Angeles
- Best of Fest Selection: 2008 Outfest Film Festival, Los Angeles

El Primo (The Cousin) – Director’s Statement

EL PRIMO (THE COUSIN) is the semi-autobiographical story about a sheltered young man whose world is turned upside down when a simple night of partying with his rougher, older cousin becomes a night of self-revelation.

The film was born out of an indelible memory I had of "coming out" of the closet when I was fifteen years old. Like the film's protagonist, a simple night of partying for me became something much more, and from that night on, both my worldview and my view of myself was changed forever. At the heart of the film is the odd-couple relationship of two cousins, childhood best friends who haven't seen each other in years. When they are reunited, they pick up where their friendship last left off, but for both of them, much has changed since they last saw each other.

The film is an exploration of how they, as young men, and their friendship has changed over the years, and poses questions about the idea of masculinity, sexuality, and manhood in the Latino culture. For someone questioning their sexuality, these questions are never answered easily. And so it is, for our protagonist, Mark Garcia.

– Nick Oceano

El Primo (The Cousin) – Filmmaker Biography

Nick Oceano (Writer, Director, Producer and Editor)

Born as the eldest of five children, Nick grew up in the working class streets of his native San Antonio, Texas.

Raised in the traditions of his first-generation Mexican-American parents, Nick once considered careers in law or religion, but in 2002, he opted instead to move to California to study Screenwriting and Film. In 2008, he will earn his MFA in Film Production from the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts.

Nick's first short film *Dog Tags* premiered at the 2006 Palm Springs International Shortfest and was selected as one of the "Best of Fest". His second short film, *El Primo (The Cousin)*, a coming-of-age story of a sheltered young man set in Laredo, Texas is still making the rounds of festivals around the world.

Nick recently completed *Pedro*, a film about the life of AIDS activist and MTV's *The Real World – San Francisco* cast member, Pedro Zamora. *Pedro* was an official selection at the 2008 Toronto International Film Festival.

He also just completed the feature screenplay, *The Boys of Saytown*, based on his experiences growing up on the rough streets of San Antonio, Texas.

El Primo (The Cousin) – Principal Cast & Crew

Writer and Director	Nick Oceano
Producers	Alex Castillo and Nick Oceano
Executive Producer	John Manier
Director of Photography	Andrew Russo
Editors	Sush Jain, Alex Kempton and Nick Oceano
Music	Carlos Alvarez
<u>CAST:</u>	
Mark	Daniel Marin
Luis	Manny Montana
Carmen	Dina Duran
Sonia	Paola Ochoa
Elena	Carla Tassara

READY? OK!

Ready? OK! – Accolades

- Finalist: 2008 Planet Out's Scion Viewer's Choice Short Film Awards

Ready? OK! – Director's Statement

I think *Ready? OK!* is a movie not just for young adults or about young adults finding their way in the world, discovering who they are and learning to accept themselves. I think it's also about the universal themes that each of us throughout our lives struggles with and must ultimately come to terms with: trying to be what everyone else wants you to be and ultimately discovering your authentic self that is illuminated by one's listening to one's quiet voice within.

For me, as a kid growing up in the Midwest, that came from sitting in my basement and watching young girls on TV do the kind of gymnastics that made my head spin. I remember saying to myself, "*I want to do that!*" Like every other boy my age, I was instead forced to be on the baseball team, but I found most "boy" sports boring, uninspiring and a little bit scary. So I retreated to the safety of my imaginary world in my basement, learned how to do cartwheels and back flips and then announced that I would try-out for the girl's cheerleading team. Brave. And foolish.

The film follows an eleven-year old boy whose story is somewhat autobiographical of my own. But everyone can relate – anyone who's been made fun of or felt ostracized or survived high school. Anyone who's passed through puberty and struggled with the issues of "*Who am I?*"

It's a subtle exploration of how we all feel -- at some point in our lives -- alienated from others. Which is simply a reflection of being alienated from ourselves.

- Anthony Meindl

Ready? OK! – Filmmaker Biography

Anthony Meindl (Director)

Anthony Meindl is an award-winning writer, producer, director and actor whose first feature screenplay, *THE WONDER GIRLS*, was the 2007 Grand Prize Winning Feature Screenplay in the Slamdance International Film Festival Screenplay Competition. Prior to this accomplishment, Meindl was responsible for the production of an array of award-winning projects. His background in acting, training, and performance has afforded him the opportunity to create what has become a thriving artist community/acting studio in Los Angeles. *THE WONDER GIRLS* was also a semifinalist in the Vail Film Festival Screenplay Competition, and was listed in the top 10% of all screenplays entered in the 2007 prestigious Nicholl Fellowship. The film is slated for production in the Winter of 2009 in Berlin.

In just one season of producing and directing plays (2003/2004), Meindl started a non-profit theatre company out of the work being done at his acting studio. The Meta Theatre Company's first three productions – *SWIMMING IN THE SHALLOWS* (Best Comedic Direction nomination by *LA Weekly*), *DOGS BARKING* (Best Direction nomination by *LA Weekly*), and *THE DEAD-EYE BOY* (based upon the play by *JUNEBUG* scribe Angus MacLachlan and named one of the Top 10 Productions in Los Angeles Theatre in 2003 by *ReviewPlays.com*) – all earned unanimous critical praise, playing to sold-out audiences across Los Angeles. The casts of the three plays – who trained under Mr. Meindl's program - were also nominated as Best Dramatic Ensemble and Best Comedic Ensemble by the *LA Weekly*.

Meindl recently completed his first book for actors about breaking through the myths surrounding acting called, *YOU KNEW WHEN YOU WERE TWO: EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT ACTING YOU ALREADY KNOW*. The book will be published next year.

Mr. Meindl's acting studio is located in West Hollywood, California, and teaches the art and science of living-in-the-moment as the catalyst to change one's life and one's work, and to realize and release one's full creative, infinite self-expressed potential.

Ready? OK! – Principal Cast & Crew

Writer and Director Anthony Meindl
 Producers Danette Sigut and
 Anthony Meindl
 Original Music Chris Andrews
 Cinematography Christopher Rossiter
 Film Editing Ryan McLaughlin
 Production Design Elizabeth Callens

CAST

Tommy Pearson	Mike Ash
Julie Pearson	Danielle Hoover
Head Cheerleader	Rachel Marie
Principal Griffin	Peyton Daley
Mr. Blanke	TK Durham
Clapping Teacher	Alison Vodnoy
Teacher 1	Donna Rettew
Horror Film Director	Oliver Trevena
Casting Director	Lori Potter
Suit #1	Brian Daley
Suit #2	Jason Frederick
Betina	Angel Little
Crafts Girl #1	Chelsea Burge
Crafts Girl #2	Kara Chaltrow
Dr. McDreamy Blonde	Sarah Gorecki
Blonde #1	Kathryn Kintzele
Blonde #2	Gabrielle Snow
Blonde #3	Jordan Mellen
Blonde #4	Megan Downey
Coach Williams	Chris Popio
Class Bully	Silas Rettew
Cronie #1	Nathan Gragido
Cronie #2	Luke Hayter
Bad Cheerleader #1	Khloe Mossman
Bad Cheerleader #2	Paige Pope
Bad Cheerleader #3	Kristen Lang
Basketball Referee	Joeseh Lanning
Hallway Girl #1	Lydia Rogers

Cheerleaders

Ann Thompson
 Jessica Schwingendorf
 Morgan Zirzow
 Theresa Werner
 Whitney Schreiber
 Olivia Sech
 Symphony Garcia
 Samantha Wesley
 Hair Dresser

Elizabeth Callens

Girl Auditioning
 Tommy Stunt Double

Elizabeth Gorecki
 Elisha Krauth

Voices

Sherri Jackson
 Anthony Meindl
 Gentle Vandeburgh

COFFEE

Coffee – Filmmaker Biography

Todd Bartoo (Writer/Director)

Todd Bartoo works in international films sales and acquisitions, but is also a part-time filmmaker and writer as well based in Los Angeles, CA.

Coffee – Principal Cast & Crew

Writer, Producer & Director	Todd Bartoo
Producer	James Medeiros
Director of Photography	Rob Schein
Sound Mixer	Paul Graff
Editor	Jerry Eisenberg
Music By	Eric Carter

CAST

Polly	Kristy Geslain
Jane	Alison Haislip
John	Cameron Northey
Alex	Tito Leon
Chris	Jeremy Lucas
Jim	Andy Allen
Poetry Reader	Felicia Sheppard
Waitress	Robin Borovic
Dude	Fish
Cute Guy	Allen Byrd
Coffeeshop Patrons	Ernie Hsiung, Nik Hua, Vicki Ho, Christopher Kuefler, Ted Kozlowski

4° (FOUR DEGREES)

4° (Four Degrees) – Accolades

- Winner: Institute for Humane Studies
Film/Fiction Award

4° (Four Degrees)– Director’s Statement

In *4° (Four Degrees)*, we've captured a criminal investigation from the point of view of the accused: someone accused of a crime he doesn't know anything about.

We've assembled a realistic case, culled from actual criminal cases, and portrayed an interrogation as terrifying as those occurring every day -- where the quest for justice and the quest for truth sometimes part ways in the rush to judgment.

And we never lose sight of the human toll: the victims and their avengers, the wronged and those seeking to make a right. Because whatever the principles, it is actual people who actually pay.

This is a movie about the elusiveness of truth and the ease of certainty. In this age of absolutes, we are called upon to know without really knowing why or how. And while this is a movie about a man, like Kafka's K, who's accused for reasons beyond him; it is as much an indictment of the rest of us. For we choose not to know how justice is attained -- and order is maintained -- in our names.

And if our ignorance has been bliss, then perhaps it is folly to be wise. Because in this reckoning we are all guilty. It is just a question of degrees.

– Adam Lipsius

4° (Four Degrees)– Filmmaker Biography

Adam Lipsius (Writer, Director and Producer)

Adam Lipsius is an award-winning screenwriter and director. He attended Dartmouth College and USC's Graduate School of Cinema-Television where three of his short films played festivals around the world. As a writer, his dramatic work has been produced in New York and on the internet by Warner Bros.' entertainment.com. He began in post-production, working under directors Martin Scorsese, Barry Sonnenfeld, Ang Lee and others; and he taught media production at Long Island University before launching his career as a commercial director for clients including OxiClean, Bratz, Little Tikes, Kaboom, Teatulia, Voots, Blox, Jookt. "Americana," the APT-distributed series he is Executive Producing and Directing recently completed production of its pilot episode. His work is available through his production company at www.uptown6.com.

4° (Four Degrees) – Principal Cast & Crew

Writer, Producer, Director	Adam Lipsius
Producer	Ransom Riggs
Executive Producer	Linda Appel Lipsius
Associate Producer	Paula Bird
Director of Photography	John DeFazio
Editor	Paolo S. de Boca
Composer	Michael Picton

CAST

Philip Long	Sam R. Ross
Lt. Wilma Kittle	Marilyn McIntyre
Det. Mike Young	Keith Coulouris
Debbie Long	Callie Thompson
Mark Connors	Brent McEwan
First Officer on Scene	Eric Jorgenson
Police Photographer	Mark Jameson
Arresting Trooper 1	Arno Clair
Arresting Trooper 2	Rob Peters
Police Guard 1	Zach Brooks
Police Guard 2	Sam Kelly