## HeHeSheSheOut@U

## Film Sharing and Discussion Forums at Tertiary Institutions September - October 2015

## Background

In view of the rising trend of HIV infection in young men who have sex with men (YMSM) - over one-third of the newly reported cases in 2014 were aged 29 or below - the Red Ribbon Centre collaborated with the Hong Kong Lesbian and Gay Film Festival (HKLGFF) to organise HeHeSheSheOut@U, a campus tour of film sharing and discussion forums in eight tertiary institutions. The theme of the selected films centred around HIV/AIDS, dressed up with a wide array of contemporary issues such as sex and gender, self identity, gay love and relationships, movie and culture, stigma and discrimination, in hopes of stimulating reflection and discussion in students. Discussion forums were led by guest speakers in the related fields and popular among the young generation.

## **Event Details**

HeHeSheSheOut@U was held in each of the eight campuses during the period 15 September to 8 October 2015 (Table 1). Most sessions were organised as independent after-school activity while some were incorporated into the curriculum related to social science, gender studies, or media and movie. Students were shown three to five films chosen from a list of 11 (Table 2), which in total lasted for about 60 minutes. This was followed by a discussion forum led by tutors and guest speakers for another 60 -90 minutes. All sessions were free of charge.

Promotion and publicity was through poster display in campuses and print advertisement in HKLGFF programme guide (Figure 1). Social media was also used to reach more young people, by creating "event page" and sharing on Facebook pages of student's associations and societies. Free condoms and souvenirs were distributed to participants.

Table 1. Details of HeHeSheSheOut@U at each campus.

Date / Time	Venue	Collaborators	Guest speakers
15 Sep (Tue) 6:30pm - 8:30pm	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	School of Design	Roland Leung (DJ, TV show host and producer)
21 Sep (Mon) 6:30pm - 8:30pm	The University of Hong Kong	Department of Sociology	Travis Kong (Associate Professor, Department of Sociology)  Denise Tang (Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology)
22 Sep (Tue) 8:30pm - 10:00pm	The Open University of Hong Kong	Creative Writing and Film Arts	Duncan (person infected with HIV) Ray Yeung (director of "Front Cover", HKLGFF opening film)
25 Sep (Fri) 9:00am - 12:00nn	City University of Hong Kong	Department of Applied Social Sciences	Chan Chi Chuen, Raymond (LegCo member)
29 Sep (Tue) 5:30pm - 7:30pn	Hong Kong Baptist University	Department of Humanities and Creative Writing	Dr Jia Tan (Assistant Professor, Academy of Film) Kit Hung (Lecturer, Academy of Film) Moderator: Dr Lucetta Kam (Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities and Creative Writing)
30 Sep (Wed) 7:00pm - 9:30pm	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Gender Studies Program	Coco Pop (drag queen) Kaspar Wan (trans-man, co-founder of Gender Empowerment) Moderator: Dr Cho Man Kit (Lecturer of Gender Studies Programme)
2 Oct (Fri) 5:30pm - 7:30pm	Lingnan University	Lingnan Student Union, Action Q	Brian Leung (DJ, LGBT right activist)
8 Oct (Tue) 9:30am - 11:30am	The Hong Kong Institute of Education	Critical Media Literacy	Barry Lee (lecturer) Lyllie Sue (class tutor)

Table 2. List of films screened during HeHeSheSheOut@U.

Film	Duration	Synopsis	
Aban and Khorshid	13 min	Inspired by true events, Aban and Khorshid is an intimate portrait of two lovers, glimpsing into the world in which they met, moments before their execution for being gay.	
Being Starvos	10 min	Weighing 420 pounds, Stavros decides to enter the "Mr Gay UK" beauty pageant. This is a documentary about his unbreakable spirit and a snapshot of gay attitudes to body image.	
Carina	12 min	Carina is 8 years old and likes rock and roll music. Her life takes a complete spin when she believes her new teacher is the same woman from her dad's pin-up magazine.	
Golden	3 min	A story of a boy born in golden skin, and his journey of finding his friends, his love and his life.	
I go to school not by bus	35 min	A coming out of age story of two secondary school students who study in a Christian school, a story of self-discovery, struggle through love, loneliness and religion in the no-regret-rebellious moment.	
Kaspar X - If I had a soul	24 min	A documentary of the transition of a female-to-male transgender person.	
Life under red lights	30 min	This is a portrait of the lives of three ladyboys who work in the sex industry in Cambodia and the hardships of living life on the edges of society in a developing country.	
Mr. Queen	22 min	A story of a local Drag Queen – Coco Pop, filmed by students of Baptist University.	
Straight with you	19 min	Though only 11 years old, Melvin has already become comfortable enough in his sexuality to come out to his parents and his best friend. Bullying and other outside pressures have kept him from going fully public but now he must decide how to handle with delicacy a schoolgirl's crush on him.	
The Package	18 min	Set in San Paolo, Leandro is a new student to a school and meets Jefferson. As the boys grow more intimate, Jefferson tells Leandro that he is HIV-positive and Leandro has to make a decision.	
Wini and George	12 min	When George, a 9-year-old outcast, moves into the same apartment complex as Wini, a 75-year-old recluse, he's immediately frightened by her. But soon enough, these two realise that they have more in common with each other than they do with the rest of the world.	

Figure 1. Print advertisement in the HKLGFF programme guide.



香港同志電影節 (HKLGFF) 今年終於衝出衣櫃,走人大學校園向各個HeHe, SheShe, HeShe, SheHe, WeWe, TheyThey COME OUT!

今年同志電影節得到紅絲帶中心全力支持,將與各大院校的不同學系、組織及學生團體合作。 於電影節期間 (九月份) 同步於校園内播放一系列有關同志生活及文化的短片,内容包括男女同志關係、性健康及文化、接納與歧視、跨性別人群、變裝皇后及創意文化等,讓大家對 LGBT 社群有多角度的了解及探索,影片屬放後設有嘉賓分享及交流。

HKLGFF (Hong Kong Lesbian and Gay Film Festival) finally came out of the closet on university campuses!! Regardless who you are and who you like, all are welcome to celebrate.

With the support of Red Ribbon Centre, HKLGFF is collaborating with different university departments, units and student groups to concurrently hold a series of screenings at university campuses during the film festival period in September. To learn more about the LGBT community, short films with an array of themes will be featured, such as same-sex relationships, sexual health and sex cultures, acceptance and discrimination, transgender, drag queens, and queer creativity. There will be sharing with guests after each screening.



The campaign attracted a total of 474 participants, with 1,395 condom packs and 375 souvenirs distributed. The films were able to spark discussion among students and on-site feedback was positive. It was expected that similar campaign should be held in the future expanding to more universities and institutions.