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#### Media Release

## Rotary Centre for the Arts' Out & Proud Film Festival Returns for Third Year

Innovative films focus on the lives and experiences of LGBTQI2S+ people

**(Kelowna, B.C.)** – The Rotary Centre for the Arts today announces the full lineup of its third annual Out & Proud Film Festival. Set to take place September 20, 21, and 22, Out & Proud 2021 offers an exciting lineup of films for the Okanagan community that explore the lives and experiences of diverse LGBTQI2S+ people.

Colleen Fitzpatrick, Executive Director of the Rotary Centre for the Arts, says, “We’re thrilled to once again be hosting the Out & Proud Film Festival. This year’s films showcase stories from all corners of the LGBTQI2S+ community, and highlight the remarkable variety of contemporary queer cinema.”

The festival kicks off on September 20<sup>th</sup> with a screening of Mark Kenneth Woods and Michael Yerxa’s, *Two Soft Things, Two Hard Things*, a documentary that examines the efforts of queer Indigenous youth in Nunavut to understand sexuality, identity, and family from a distinctly Inuit perspective.

Says Elana Bizovie, lead coordinator of Out & Proud 2021, “*Two Soft Things, Two Hard Things* is a beautiful film that helps us understand how histories of colonization and contemporary efforts at decolonization shape ideas of gender and sexuality.” Following the film, patrons will be treated to a Talk Back session focused on how Indigenous understandings of gender expression and identity contribute to the work of decolonizing the gender binary.

On September 21 and 22, the festival continues with a unique lineup of documentaries, features, and experimental shorts. “We’re especially excited to feature two double bills this year,” says Bizovie. On September 21, following a feature screening of Paul Émile d’Entremont’s documentary *Standing on the Line*, festivalgoers can take in a pair of shorts by Kelowna-based writer and filmmaker Michael V. Smith (*The Hookup*) and Michèle Pearson Clarke (*Handmade Mountain*). “The LGBTQI2S+ community is big, diverse, and always evolving. By featuring films of all styles and forms, Out & Proud tries to reflect that diversity.”

More information on the Out & Proud Film Festival, including a complete program of films and ticketing details, can be found on the [Rotary Centre for the Arts website](#). Tickets are available for individual films, but patrons can also purchase a festival pass for \$25.00. Festival passes provide access to all screenings *except* Out & Proud’s online offering, *Fanny: The Right to Rock* (this event ticketed separately).

**Out & Proud 2021 is generously sponsored by Staples Studio Canada, and is an official affiliate event of Kelowna Pride 2021.**

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### **About Kelowna Pride**

Kelowna Pride is the largest Pride Festival in the BC Interior. Kelowna Pride's first festival began over 25 years ago. Since then, the festival has grown immensely, attracting over 12,000 people to be proud and celebrate love, diversity, and inclusivity. Normally held in June, the 2021 festival has been moved to October due to COVID. For more information, visit <https://www.kelownapride.com/>

### **About the Rotary Centre for the Arts**

Located in the heart of Kelowna’s Cultural District, the [Rotary Centre for the Arts](#) is a multidisciplinary visual and performing arts centre. The RCA continually strives to improve the economic, cultural, and social quality of life in the community by fostering participation in, and appreciation of the arts. As a world-class venue celebrating creative expression through diverse art forms and disciplines, the Rotary Centre for the Arts is a unique City of Kelowna facility in which individuals of all ages and backgrounds come together to share in the excitement of strengthening art and culture in the Okanagan. The Rotary Centre for the Arts respectfully acknowledges that it is located on the unceded, traditional territory of the Syilx (Okanagan) people.