CORK LESBIAN AND GAY FILM FESTIVAL

SET FOR WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 8 - 10, 1993

DATE: Friday, October 8 until Sunday, October 10, 1993

TIME: Opening Film on Friday, October 8, 1993, at 8 pm, followed by a weekend of films and social events.

PLACE: Various venues in Cork, including the Opera House, Triskel Arts Centre and the Crawford Art Gallery

PRICE: Various prices for different events, ranging from 3 to 5 pounds.

INFORMATION: Further details can be had by phoning John Callaghan at (021) 317-660.

PRESS CONTACT (not for public dissemination): Donal Sheehan, Director for Cork Film Festival, at (021) 317-664.

ADVANCE TIX: A schedule of films and advance tickets will be available beginning September 20, 1993, at the Other Place Cafe on Augustine Street in Cork, and at the Irish Film Centre in Dublin.

TEXT OF RELEASE:

The Third Annual Cork Lesbian and Gay Film Festival is scheduled for the weekend of October 8 to 10, 1993, at various venues around Cork City. The Festival will coincide with the closing weekend of the Internationally renowned 38th Annual Cork Film Festival.

The Lesbian and Gay Film Festival is planning a number of films from around the world which will appeal to audiences of all kind. Already confirmed for screening at the Festival is the winner of the "Golden Bear Award" for Best Film at the Berlin Film Festival, the delightful comedy "The Wedding Banquet".

In "The Wedding Banquet", Gao Wai-Tung has a happy and very settled life in Manhattan. Some shrewd real estate investments keep him busy

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and comfortably well-off. Best of all, his Caucasian lover Simon cooks first rate Chinese food.

The only trouble is Wai-Tung's elderly parents back in Taiwan. They expect him to marry and give them a grandchild. They are constantly enrolling him in computer dating clubs to find him a suitable bride.

An arranged marriage with a young woman in need of legal immigration status starts an hilarious unanticipated chain of events. According to Tony Rayns of the Berlin Film Festival, "This film is to 1993 what Strictly Ballroom was to 1992: a scintillating comedy with a serious undertow and masterly grasp of emotional highs and lows."

A selection of women's films are planned for the weekend. The Festival will be showing the documentary "Last Call at Maude's". This fascinating film focuses on the closing of the oldest lesbian bar in the world, San Francisco's Maudes.

The Festival has scored a coup by landing the Irish Premiere of the recently re-issued print of "Mala Noche", the first film by internationally renowned director Gus Van Sant.

Gus Van Sant is the director of "Drugstore Cowboy" and "My Own Private Idaho". His first film, "Mala Noche", is a stunning, ultra-realistic glance at a young gay man's unrequited love for a 16 year old Mexican. Walt, the lead character of the film, is oenly and happily gay and lives amdn works among the transients, winos and migrant workers who make up Portland, Oregon's skid row. When he meets Johnny, he develops a hopelessly doomed passion that he knows is pointless -- but which he can't seem to shake.

Time Out in London wrote of "Mala Noche", "Off beat, off hand and at times off the wall, this sad and funny film recalls 'Streetwise' and 'Stranger Than Paradise', but in its own unabashed way is better than both." No one should miss this study in the bulldozing power of desire, which contains Gus Van Sant's trademark deadpan wit.

In addition to the films on offer, a full weekend of social events is planned. Tentative plans include a Saturday night disco and a Sunday afternoon cocktail party, as well as a Saturday morning brunch. There will be formal and informal opportunities to meet friends old and new as well as surprise guests.

Further information about the Festival can be obtained by calling John Callaghan at (021) 317-660. Callers can obtain information on the weekend schedules and out-of-towners can get a line on local B&B's offering special deals for the weekend.
A good time will be had by all.