



Tradewinds

January 2008

Monthly Newsletter

IFW GOES TO BERLIN *submitted by Bill Tom*

The International Friendship Weekend (IFW) group will be holding their next convention in Berlin from June 21 thru the 30th. This promises to be a fun filled event, since we will be in the middle of their gay pride activities--there will be a street fair and a pride parade on consecutive Saturdays. Berlin has one the largest parades with over 400,000 attendees.

IFW will be working with the Long Yang Club-Berlin, who will host the event. They will be coordinating the meals, tours, and seminars.

The planners anticipate 100-plus attendees, so you will have plenty of people to keep you company. As usual there will be a hospitality room, and staffed with knowledgeable people who can give all the latest info on places and happenings.

There are numerous Asian restaurants—Thai, Chinese, Japanese—serving very authentic foods. I recall seeing huge delivery trucks saying “Asian Food and Supplies.” And printed along side were the Chinese characters.

The planning committee has reserved a hotel, but has not finalized the rates. Their web site is still in the planning stage so we will keep you posted.



RECYCLED CONDOMS FROM CHINA *Submitted by Bill Tom*

HOLLYWOOD CHINESE, an exploration of the Chinese in American feature films, captured the Best Documentary Award at the Golden Horse Awards on December 8, 2007. Often referred to as the Chinese equivalent of the Oscars®, The Golden Horse Awards are the most prestigious honors in Asia for Chinese-language cinema, covering categories modeled after those for the Academy Awards®. Although not technically a Chinese-language film, HOLLYWOOD CHINESE met special qualifications including requirements for content, cast, and crew. The feature-length film was also screened as one of two opening night films at the 44th Golden Horse International Film Festival that culminated in the gala awards ceremonies.



Arthur Dong, Academy Award®-nominee and triple Sundance Award-winning director of HOLLYWOOD CHINESE, says, "My experience at the Golden Horse events was extraordinary. To begin with, to be the first documentary ever selected to open the festival was a strong message to Asia and Chinese-speaking audiences that documentaries are a genre that's not only important but also entertaining. And then, for jurors to recognize a Chinese American production with an award for films traditionally from Asia was an honor that I'm personally proud of -- I've known about the Golden Horse since I was a kid growing up in San Francisco Chinatown and never thought I'd actually receive one myself!"

Other Golden Horse honorees this year were Ang Lee's *Lust Caution*, with seven wins including best feature, best director, best actor and best adapted screenplay by Wang Hui-ling & James Schamus. *The Home Song Stories* took best actress for Joan Chen's performance and best original screenplay. Both Lee and Chen are featured in HOLLYWOOD CHINESE and were among those attending the star-studded event held at the 15,000 seat Taipei Arena.

HOLLYWOOD CHINESE also features Turhan Bey, Tsai Chin, James Hong, David Henry Hwang, Nancy Kwan, Christopher Lee, Justin Lin, Lisa Lu, Luise Rainer, James Shigeta, Amy Tan, Wayne Wang, and B.D. Wong. The film had its international premiere at the 2007 Toronto International Film Festival and is scheduled for theatrical release in the spring of 2008.

For a complete list of Golden Horse winners, please visit www.goldenhorse.org.tw/gh_main/gh/gh-e-5.aspx

For more information on HOLLYWOOD CHINESE, please visit www.hollywoodchinese.com

Photo Caption: Director Arthur Dong poses with his award after winning the Best Documentary for HOLLYWOOD CHINESE at the 44th Golden Horse Awards in Taipei December 8, 2007. Photo courtesy of DeepFocus Productions, Inc.

GAY NEWS AT HOME AND ABROAD *Submitted by Roy Liebman, Publications Chair*

THE CHURCH

Central California's Diocese of San Joaquin became the first in the United States to secede from the Episcopal Church over the question of ordaining gays. It will now align the diocese with a conservative Anglican province in South America. Dioceses in Pittsburgh and Fort Worth have taken preliminary votes to do the same.

HEALTH INSURANCE

A recent study shows that domestic partners are at a disadvantage in health insurance because many employers do not provide it for partners and if they are covered it is taxable. This is not true of similarly-covered married couples. It is estimated that a pair of domestic partners pay an average of almost \$1,100 more in taxes annually because of this inequality. Collectively it is estimated that all domestic partners pay \$178 million more in taxes a year. Employers pay something like an extra \$57 million a year.

POLITICS

One of the Republican candidates now running for President said in 1992 that AIDS patients should be quarantined and that homosexuality itself could "pose a dangerous public health risk". (He said it was an aberrant, unnatural and sinful lifestyle".) He also stated that it was the "first time in the history of civilization in which the carriers of a genuine plague have not been isolated from the general population". He also said that Hollywood celebrities should fund AIDS research out of their own pockets rather than the federal government doing it. Among the celebrities he suggested were Elizabeth Taylor and Madonna---no doubt because they were considered gay icons. The name of the candidate: Mike Huckabee.

THE MILITARY

Republican candidates Mitt Romney, Mike Huckabee (surprise!) and John McCain have "come out" in support of the "Don't ask, don't tell" policy of the military. Ex-Governor Romney, often accused of flip-flopping, has apparently done so again. In 1994 he stated that gays should serve "openly and honestly" in the military. Another GOP candidate added that gays can't be allowed to serve in the military because of most of their comrades would be conservative and believe in "Judeo-Christian values" (as if gay people don't). The candidate: also-running Congressman Duncan Hunter from the San Diego area. All the Democrats running have come out in favor of the law's repeal.

One of the very first wounded Iraq veterans visited by George Bush after the start of the Iraq War was a Marine staff sergeant. He was wounded by a land mine on the very first day of the War and had a leg amputated. Earlier this year he came out publicly as a gay man to decry "Don't ask, don't tell". He had served thirteen years. Almost thirty retired high-ranking military officers have now publicly stated that the law does not work. Polls have shown that between 63% and 79% of Americans support repeal.

URUGUAY

The small South American country of Uruguay will legalize civil unions for both homo- and heterosexual couples, making it the first country on that continent to treat gay and straight couples alike in matters of inheritance, pensions and parenting rights. The couples need to have cohabited for at least five years.

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