

ADVOCATE *insider*

May 16, 2007

All Boys Boarding School

CANNES -- May 16 morning

A sneak peek at footage of St. Trinian's -- starring Rupert Everett in drag -- and a very in-demand party to promote it is an early highlight of the fest. So it's appropriate that I'm sharing an apartment for the ten day festival with three other guys. Two of them are fest veterans I know well and one is here for the first time. The two guys are enjoyably straight -- casually slovenly but cleaner than most and roughly my age. We've got a one bedroom apartment, with me and one guy on single beds in the bedroom and the other two guys using a couch or mattresses on the floor in the living room. The cost of this luxurious living? \$5000 for the entire festival, split four ways.

We're located just three or four minutes of casual walking from the Palais. That's the central complex where many of the major screenings take place. (There are also dozens of screening rooms and theaters showing movies of all shapes and sizes throughout the town.) People always ask me about the topless beach but there isn't time. The first screening of the day is always a biggie and it takes place at 8:30 am. From then on it's a roundelay of movies and press conferences and interviews and photo shoots and parties.

As cramped as it is, our apartment inspires jealousy with its central location and the blessing of a washer and dryer. The new guy has just arrived and he's cute and smart and friendly and maybe 22 years old and I don't know if he's gay but I'm certain his waist size is no bigger than his age. I hate him already.

-- Michael Giltz

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Photo: Getty

CANNES -- May 15

The Advocate has been covering the Cannes Film Festival for the last eight years. Normally, that meant a three or four paragraph roundup in the magazine several weeks after the festival ended. This year, we'll have daily posts with the buzz on movies, early reaction from the press, our brief reviews, party coverage, sitting with the stars thumping movies they want us to hotly anticipate for the summer or fall and of course everything queer.

Four thousand journalists converge on Cannes each May and it's not just for the 22 films in Competition like Wong Kar Wai's *My Blueberry Nights* with Norah Jones, the Coen Brothers and their comeback flick *No Country For Old Men* or Michael Moore's health care cri de coeur *Sicko*. Major stars like George Clooney and Brad Pitt will plug *Ocean's 13*, Angelina Jolie has her Oscar-hopeful turn in *A Mighty Heart*, Jerry Seinfeld is promoting his animated bee flick and starlets famous and unknown prowl the Croisette hoping photographers will notice them. Among the gay events you can look forward to: Rupert Everett reunites with Colin Firth in the all-girls boarding school remake *St. Trinian's*. Rupert in drag as the headmistress is catnip for the boys and the raucous *St. Trinian's* comedies surely provided countless flights of fancy for girls back in the day. Everett and Firth will hold forth at a press conference and the *St. Trinian's* party should be an early highlight.

The AmFar annual fund-raiser (with Sharon Stone as the cajoling, pleading and wonderfully demanding auctioneer) is a must-show for every star in town and we're looking to squeeze in on the guest list.

Director Gus Van Sant has a new tale of teens in trouble, *Paranoid Park*. Tom Kalin and Julianne Moore debut their wicked comic drama *Savage Grace*. Actor Gael Garcia Bernal is making his directorial debut -- and we're happy to have him behind the camera as long as he introduces the film in person. And naturally most of the films with gay content will be a surprise: dozens of movies are seen for the first time anywhere here at Cannes and hundreds more appear at the Market, hoping for buyers.

So keep coming back and I'll give you a glimpse of what it's like to walk the streets of Cannes during the biggest film festival in the

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world. -- Michael Giltz

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[April 2008](#)

[March 2008](#)

[February 2008](#)

[January 2008](#)

[December 2007](#)

[November 2007](#)

September 2008

SunMonTueWedThuFriSat

	1	2	<u>3</u>	4	5	6
7	<u>8</u>	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

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