

Festival

Coming Out Soon to A Theater Near You

What an extraordinary historical moment," says writer/director Maria Maggenti, laughing, "that Newt Gingrich would be so powerful, and my movie—a teen interracial lesbian comedy—would be seen in a mall!" She's talking about *The Incredibly True Adventures of Two Girls in Love*, a witty romantic comedy that's perhaps the highlight of the upcoming **7th Annual New York Lesbian and Gay Film Festival**, June 1 through June 11 at the Joseph Papp Public Theater (260-2400). More than 150 films and videos will be screened this year, and in the spirit of *Two Girls in Love*—a happily commercial movie that ventures into John Hughes territory brandishing charm, intelligence, and wit—the other big news from this year's crop isn't some edgy, lo-fi effort that will be seen by only a faithful few. Rather, it's the promising semi-mainstream potential of films like *Wigstock: The Movie*, a flip documentary about the downtown happening; and *Ballot Measure 9*, another documentary, this one about the Oregon effort to pass an anti-gay initiative. In Maggenti's film, which opens in New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco June 16, Evie, an upper-middle-class African-American, falls in love with her classmate Randy, and the two of them brave the spiraling comedic crises that their relationship creates. While Maggenti identifies with Evie—"Evie is my character; she's me"—she can't claim to have had the same sweet innocence. "I was smoking long skinny cigarettes by the age of 16," Maggenti confesses. "And I was wearing black turtlenecks and reading Nietzsche and wondering about feminist theory and when I could get out of high school and start having a real life. I was actually *much* more obnoxious and pseudo-sophisticated than Evie."



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