

PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE RENAISSANCE CITY WOMEN'S CHOIR, under the  
direction of Susan Haugh  
HOSTED BY CHATHAM COLLEGE STUDENTS AGAINST SEXUAL  
OPPRESSION

PRESENT:

Dykes!Camera!Action!

Friday, April 4, 2003 8:00p.m.  
Eddy Theatre, Chatham College  
Dance to follow performance – 1:00a.m.

Tickets  
\$15 In Advance  
\$18 At the Door  
\$7 Students with I.D.  
Proartstickets.org / 412-394-3353  
Or at A Pleasant Present

Check out [www.rccpittsburgh.org](http://www.rccpittsburgh.org) for lesbian movie  
trivia contest and your chance to win \$50!

Version #1

Why do lesbians go to the movies? To be entertained  
of course, but also because  
we thirst for images that speak to us, which affirm  
our experience and reflect the reality and complexity  
of our lives, images that show us in our full

humanity. And while everyone loves a good lesbian vampire movie now and again, we "hunger" for stories and characters that ring true.

Like most minorities seeking accurate representations of themselves in the mass culture, gay men and lesbians have been victims of "symbolic annihilation" - the virtual absence of images of a group, for all intensive purposes, means that the group does not exist. "Symbolic annihilation" of a group is a systematic and calculated form of censorship and oppression that affects the targeted groups and individuals in an extremely personal way by affecting their sense of marginalization and self-worth. Contrary to the isolation many of us may have experienced when we were young, films with queer characters, plots, themes, and sensibilities provide proof that we are indeed not alone.

We owe the progress that has been made in film and in society to those lesbians, gay men, and bisexual, transgendered and straight individuals who took great personal risks through their work to help move society forward and help create the promise of a brighter day.

Dykes!Camera!Action! celebrates these visual images which depict and are in and of themselves products of the GayLesbianBisexualTransgendered community's evolution - images which chronicle our emergence from the shadows, document our struggles, reflect our values, hopes, and dreams, and of course, embody our passion.

Version #2

Do you remember seeing your lesbian character in a film? Lesbians on the silver screen have always captured our hearts and our imagination.

In Vito Russo's book, *The Celluloid Closet*, Russo states, "The idea of homosexuality first emerged onscreen in the early 1900's." At that time, lesbians in films were not seen as dangerous. They were just, "Fun loving women who like to wear men's clothes."

Then, in 1934, the Motion Picture Production Code, under pressure from civic groups, and religious organizations, pressured the Code into marginalizing gay and lesbian characters. For the next 40 years, lesbians were portrayed as vampires, psychopaths, murderers, and depressives. Those were dark years!

Then, "Homosexuals took the game away from Hollywood" said, Russo. Movies began to show lesbians as strong, smart, and determined. And in the current exuberance of "girl power", a flurry of realistic movies with happy endings have been produced.

Travel this history of lesbian characters in film with the Renaissance City Women's choir as they feature many of their talented soloists and some choice movie clips.