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**'Family Pride, Queer Aside' and 'Trans\_CCS' to Shine at the 13th edition of the Philadelphia Latino Film Festival 2024.**

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In a celebration of Latin culture through the lens of cinema, the 13th edition of the Philadelphia Latino Film Festival will play host to the highly anticipated world premiere of 'Family Pride, Queer Aside' and the Philadelphia premiere of 'Trans\_CCS' by the talented Venezuelan filmmaker, María Millán.

Running from May 26 - July 7, 2024, the festival is a beacon for the convergence of directors, producers, screenwriters, actors, and Latin talent, all united in their mission to deepen the appreciation and understanding of Latin culture through the power of cinema.

At its heart, "Family Pride, Queer Aside" unfolds the poignant narrative of Aisak Ovalles, a young gay, drag queen who courageously embraces the role of a father to three children alongside his sister during the tumultuous backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The documentary has captured the interest of researchers from Boston University and the professors of LGBTQ+ studies from the University of New Mexico who will introduce the film to their audience at the **9<sup>th</sup> annual Feminist Border Arts Film Festival** to be celebrated during Pride Day this year.

The film's central mission is to cast a spotlight on a subject often overlooked: Diverse Families. Through its powerful storytelling, it aims to shatter stereotypes and unveil a concealed yet ever-present reality in the lives of everyday Venezuelans. "Family Pride, Queer Aside" is a cinematic gem, both in terms of its style and content, and it aspires to become a pivotal reference point in the ongoing pursuit of rights for LGBTIQ+ individuals in Venezuela who dream of building their own families, as passionately affirmed by its director and producer.

Before hitting its world premiere, this documentary had its home premiere in his native Caracas, Venezuela last October 2023 in an event organised by the Embassy of Netherlands in Venezuela, alongside '**Trans\_CCS**' another documentary made by Millan,

which premiered at the 33rd edition of the TIGLFF (Tampa Bay Gay & Lesbian Film Festival) in the United States.

Garnering acclaim on the international stage, 'Trans\_CCS' also screened at the Tokyo International Short Film Festival in Japan, the Lonely Seal International Film Festival in Boston, GRRL Haus in Cambridge, the Bangkok Thai International Film Festival in Thailand and the Seattle Latino International Film Festival.

'Trans\_CCS' explores the resilience of Angelica Vitanza, a transgender woman living in Caracas during the challenging lockdown of 2021. This 23-minute documentary offers an intimate look at Angelica, who won Miss World Gay 2021.

María Millán embarked on this ambitious project amidst the lockdown, within the backdrop of Venezuela's already challenging circumstances. She hopes that the films spark vital conversations about LGBTQ rights and serve as an authentic representation of the community, transcending the comedic stereotypes often perpetuated by the media.

'Family Pride, Queer Aside' and 'Trans\_CCS' is poised to make a lasting impact on both the film festival circuit and the educational conversations surrounding LGBTQ+ rights.

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