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Aimée & Jaguar

Tuesday June 22 Theatre Location TBA

Film Screening 8:30 pm

\$10 Mem/\$15 Gen (AIMEE22)

Director Max Fäberböck is right when he says "A story like this has a certain magic because it really happened." Based on Erica Fischer's award-winning book, **Aimée & Jaguar** confronts Germany's past through a courageous story of lesbian passion. It is the unbelievable but true story of Lilly Wurst (Juliane Köhler) and Felice Schragenheim (Maria Schrader) two women who should have never met, much less fallen so deeply and dangerously in love in 1942 Berlin. Lilly is a Nazi super-mom who won a government award for producing four "racially pure" Aryan sons for the fatherland. Felice is a risk taking assimilated German Jew who secretly held a job at a Nazi newspaper in order to pass along sensitive documents to the Jewish underground. At night she hangs around with a wild and courageous circle of lesbian friends, one of whom is her lover Ilse who just happens to be Lilly's maid. Catching a glimpse of Lilly at a concert, Felice can think of no other and secretly sends her a love letter renaming the two Aimée and Jaguar. Lilly thinks the letter is from one of the many lovers she entertains while her husband is away at the Eastern front. The two eventually meet unexpectedly and a close bond forms between the two women and Lilly's children. One day Felice takes a chance and spontaneously kisses Lilly on the mouth. Responding at first with shock, Lilly quickly gives in to her feelings for Felice and allows her to move into her apartment. Forming a pact of marriage and love, the two women try desperately to forget the horror which surrounds them. When Lilly's

husband returns from the front and discovers the two in bed together, she makes the gutsy and almost unthinkable decision to divorce him.

Still unaware of Felice's true identity and fueled by jealousy, Lilly demands to know the truth behind Felice's late night rendezvous and occasional disappearances. When Felice finally tells her the truth, Lilly is shocked and urges her to flee, but to no avail. The two women manage to survive and find 18 months of happiness in a Berlin that is terrorized from above by Allied bombers and below by the Gestapo. On one hot August day in 1944 after an afternoon spent bathing, joking and taking photographs the women return to their apartment and find the Gestapo waiting and their tragic love story comes to an end.

While Lilly could not save Felice's life, she did go on to save three other Jewish women during the war. Now 85 and still living in Berlin, Felice is determined to keep the memory of her friend alive.

Aimée & Jaguar dir Max Fäberböck 1998 Germany
124 min 35mm in German with English subtitles

Eligible for the Dockers® Khakis First Feature Award.

