

"It's rare to see a film so subtly incendiary, so elegiac & provocative at the same time. Here's to Brandon Cordeiro's new, brilliant career!"
- Michael Cunningham
(Pulitzer Prize: *The Hours*)



"Provincetown filmmaker shoots from the heart!"
-Cape Cod Times

ribbons
the directorial debut of local filmmaker, [Brandon Cordeiro](#)

In 1997 a mother brings her eight-year-old son to a public AIDS memorial on a beach in Provincetown, Ma.

Click [HERE](#) to watch the official trailer

[NewFest – NYC's LGBTQ Film Festival – Monday, October 24th, 8:30pm @ The Center](#)
RIBBONS makes its **NY PREMIER** preceding the critically acclaimed documentary *Remembering the Man*

PRESS SCREENER available upon request

Press Contact:
Brandon Cordeiro
774-487-8822
www.ribbonsshort.org
Cordeiro.brand@gmail.com

SYNOPSIS

Provincetown, a small harbor village at the very tip of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, was already a home to the LGBT community for a few decades when AIDS devastated its population in the mid-1980s. *ribbons* is a short film that explores an episode in the life of a second generation Portuguese boy when his mother brings him to a community memorial service by the sea. The boy experiences firsthand the loss incurred by the epidemic, but also his community's inspirational response to it; an event that as an adult helps him understand the power of forming a bond with a kindred tribe.

FESTIVALS

[InsideOut LGBT Toronto Film Festival](#), [Provincetown International Film Festival](#), [NewFest – NYC's LGBTQ Film Festival](#), [Les Gai Cine Madrid](#), [TwinCities Film Festival](#), [Indianapolis LGBT Film Festival](#), [St. Louis QFest](#), [Big Island Film Festival](#), [Woods Hole Film Festival](#), [Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival](#), [Fresno REEL Pride Film Festival \(Audience Award: BEST SHORT\)](#), [Online New England Film Festival](#)

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Born and raised in Provincetown, MA, writer, actor, producer & director, Brandon Cordeiro makes his directorial debut with [ribbons](#). He most recently appeared in the Broadway national tour of "Camelot", co-starred on Broadway in the Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS revival of "The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me" with B.D. Wong, David Drake, and Anthony Rapp, and recently sang a duet with Kristin Chenoweth on stage at Provincetown Town Hall. He has been a featured performer with the performance art collective CHERYL at New York's Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in "PSI: MOVE," and in MoMA's "Pop Ralley" for the opening of the Cindy Sherman exhibit. His one-man show, *I Love You, You're Hairy, Now Change!* directed by Obie Award Winner David Drake, recently had two sold out summer runs in Provincetown, Ma. He can be seen in the films "My Many Married Men," "Ashes to Ashes", "[ribbons](#)" and in the pilot "Truthfully Speaking."

PRESS

[Michael Cunningham](#) – Pulitzer-prize winning author of *The Hours* & *A Home at the End of the World*: "*ribbons* is a powerful, poignant, and beautiful testament to all who've been lost, and a potent reminder to we who remain that the battle against AIDS has not yet been won. **It's rare to see a film so subtly incendiary, so elegiac & provocative at the same time. Here's to Brandon Cordeiro's new, brilliant career!**"

[Carson Kressley](#) - Emmy-winning television star of *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* & *Ru Paul's Drag Race*: "As a new generation comes of age, *ribbons* provides a powerful connection to our (LGBTQ) past, never forgetting those we lost. **Don't miss this poignant, intergenerational story with a lot of heart!**" *His video endorsement of the film can be seen [HERE](#).*

[NPR – Debut film by Provincetown Director: RIBBONS](#)

[Provincetown Magazine](#) – RIBBONS is a "...lovely, impressionistic, quiet snap shot of a time that deeply affected us all." One of "**Seven Films Not To Miss**" at the Provincetown International Film Festival!

[Joe DiPietro](#) – Two time Tony-Award winner of *Memphis*: “Grief and joy co-exist in this terrifically shot, deeply touching film. With elegiac grandeur, ‘ribbons’ took my breath away.”

[Peter Staley](#) – HIV/AIDS-LGBT rights activist, A primary figure in the Oscar-nominated documentary *How to Survive a Plague*: “Watching ‘ribbons’ **reminded me of when I strolled into the AIDS Quilt on the Washington Mall the first time it was displayed**. Thank you, Brandon Cordeiro, for remembering all the beautiful souls we lost, and doing so in a way that left me feeling hopeful.”

[Toronto – Daily Xtra](#) – click [here](#) to watch an interview about the international premier of RIBBONS at the [InsideOut Toronto LGBT Film Festival](#).

[Provincetown TV](#) – click [here](#) to watch Brandon’s “Featured Director” interview for the Provincetown International Film Festival.

[Cape Cod Times](#): “Provincetown filmmaker (Brandon Cordeiro) **shoots from the heart**.”

[Towleroad](#): “An LGBT Crowdfund film that deserves your hard-earned pink dollars.”

[POPSublime](#): “...**poignantly nostalgic**... *ribbons* sweetly recreates a young boy’s entirely innocent response to the social tragedy of the AIDS crisis, while also providing a **snapshot** of the LGBTQ community’s wide-ranging strength at a particularly painful and devastating point in history...Cordeiro’s rendition of Joni Mitchell’s “Circle Game” at the end of the film, sung by the director himself, is **memorable & luminous**.”

SPECIAL SCREENINGS & OUTREACH

RIBBONS, an officially registered not-for-profit film, recently screened at the [Harvey Milk High School](#) in New York City, a publicly funded high school for at-risk LGBTQ(Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, Queer & Questioning) youth. Harvey Milk High School is associated with the [Hetrick Martin Institute](#), the oldest and largest organization helping LGBTQ youth to reach their full potential. For more information on the organization and all of the wonderful work they do, please, click [HERE](#). For more information on the Harvey Milk High School, please click [HERE](#). Currently in America, out of the estimated 1.6 million homeless youth, 40% identify as LGBTQ, a disproportionately high statistic. Creating content that can help this population is one of the goals of director, Brandon Cordeiro. He is beyond excited for this opportunity and hopes it leads to more similar screenings.

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:

[Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS](#), [The Provincetown Swim for Life](#),
[AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod](#), & [The Provincetown Art Association & Museum](#).

DIRECTOR’S STATEMENT

“[ribbons](#)” – adapted from my one-man stage show - is a short film loosely based on my own adolescence in Provincetown, Massachusetts as a gay, Portuguese, artistic youth amidst the height of the AIDS crisis. At seven years old, my mother, brought me to a public memorial on a beach in Provincetown, MA in 1997 after AIDS had taken its toll on the town’s gay male population. It is my belief that we must tell the stories of people from our community who both witnessed and succumbed to the epidemic. In doing this, we are creating a history for our people. And since institutionalized education and other aspects of mainstream society neglect to include

LGBT people in the telling of the history of the human race, art has long been our form of sharing/telling our history. It is a long-standing tradition, and we must continue to contribute to it, and It is my hope that *ribbons*, does just that.

Growing up in Provincetown, a third generation son of Portuguese fishermen, I was exposed to the town’s artistic and progressive community from an early age. I remember that life-altering beach bonfire visit as a seven-year-old, as if it were yesterday, the people who attended this gathering were diverse in race, gender and sexuality, but were united in their feelings of loss brought on by AIDS.

The film’s title “ribbons” refers to the multi-colored prayer ribbons that are part of the annual [Swim For Life](#) event in Provincetown, celebrating its 28th year, and are a quintessential Provincetown tradition symbolizing the heroic efforts of a community devastated by the pandemic and its unequivocal response to it. Along with screening the film in as many festivals as we can, I am also developing a lesson plan based on *ribbons*, which will at first cater to at risk youth, focusing on LGBTQ youth, with goals of sharing it with a broader population. I hope to introduce a wider audience to the town I grew up in and know so well, a community of people who faced the challenges of AIDS - including neglect from our government and rejection from their own families - and who fought together to make a difference.

What was initially only intended to be a short film has now expanded, I am currently well into the screenplay for the feature-length adaptation of RIBBONS, which will be called TRIBE. The expansion of this short will give us ample opportunity to explore the life of a child growing up amongst his queer brothers and sisters and will reveal the familial, societal, and personal obstacles he must overcome in order to reach his full potential.

CREDITS

written & directed by
Brandon Cordeiro

executive producers
Matthew Principe &
Brandon Cordeiro

directory of photography
Benjamin John Zimbric

production designer
Ernest J. Martin

wardrobe
Carol Meehan Sherry &
Rose Donahue, ast.

makeup & hair by
Alyson Cordeiro
Jacquelyn Justice, assistant

music by
Mark Louque

featuring

"The Circle Game"

Written by Joni Mitchell

Published by Crazy Crow Music (administered by Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC)

performed by

Brandon Cordeiro

recorded at

JEMusic studios NYC

James Morgan, piano

casting

Brandon Cordeiro &

Jake Ford

unit production manager

Madelyn Cordeiro

assistant director

Jake Ford

editing & sound design

Benjamin John Zimbric

art director

Ernest J. Martin

focus pullers

Darnell McDonald

Nat Taylor

grip

Nat Taylor

gaffer

Mike Balderston

still photographers

Elyssa Cohen

Rodrigo Hernández

Key Art

Claudio Marcelo Reis

craft services

Claire Adams

set assistants

Bob Keary

Michael Caliri

Julian Cyr &

Raymond Cordeiro

Actors

Daniel Smily
Brandon Cordeiro

Jason Jr.
Jason Sr

Braunwyn Jackett	Maria
Ernest J. Martin	Ken
Ben Berry	Eric
Christopher Kosiavelon	Queen
Scott Martino	Captain
Rodrigo Hernández	Charlie
Julian Cyr	Gay man 1
Jeffrey Ribeiro	Gay man 2
Melinda Ancillo	Lesbian 1
Darlene Van Alstyne	Lesbian 2
Charlie Kilgore	Dancer 1
Rose Donahue	Dancer 2
Lynn Ryan West	Drummer 1
Tim West	Drummer 2
Alyson Cordeiro	Drummer 3

bon fire attendees

Debbie Sverid, Susan Perel, Stephanie De La Cuz, Sallie Tighe, Colin McGuire, Melinda Ancillo, Janet Jorgulesco, Alan Cancelino & Madelyn Cordeiro

bon fire spirits

Jay Critchley, Fabio, Alex Penn, Ed Healey, Deiby Reelee, Dave Abramson, Shane Landry, Brecken Seyffert, William Bradford, Eric Smoquina, Howie Getman, Barry Cook, Brian Glidden, Tom Stagmiger, Todd Couchman, Ryan Cooke, Adrian Cyr, Anette Cyr, Susan Rand Brown, Tim Richmond, Erin Atwood, Tamara Endich, Will Oxtoby, Raymond Cordeiro & Trudy Wood.

www.ribbonsShort.org // [#ribbonsshort](https://twitter.com/ribbonsshort) // [@ribbonsshort](https://www.instagram.com/ribbonsshort)