

BLADE

Long Beach GLBT Pride Celebration
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GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER NEWSMAGAZINE
ORANGE COUNTY, LONG BEACH, LOS ANGELES & BEYOND

▼ ENTERTAINMENT

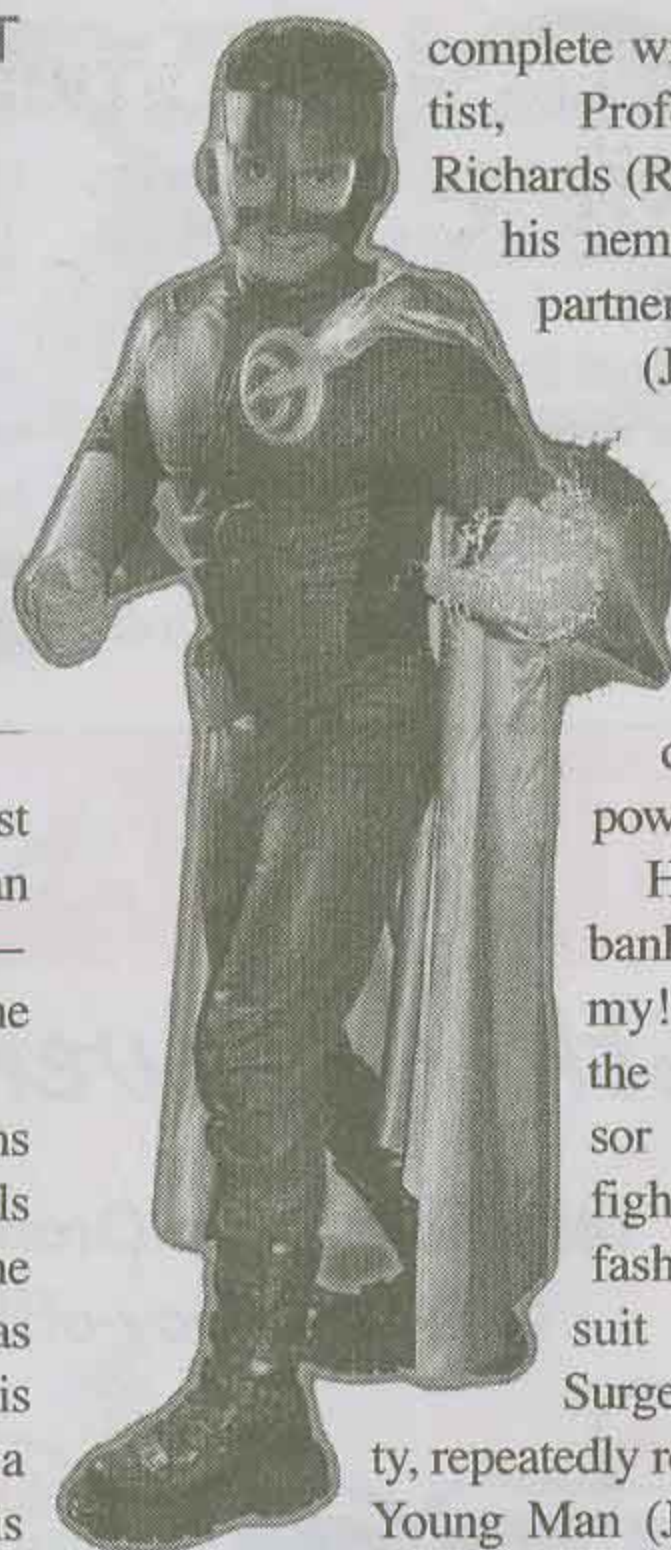
FILM FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT

A Gay Superhero and an All-Gay Comic? It's Possible

BY BILL LAPOINTE

"Surge of Power" is camp, just on the edge of the old "Batman and Robin" television series—but this time the characters don't just add the "WHAM" and "BAM" special effects.

A comic book fan (Alan Mills) happens upon a merchant (Tom Tangen) who reveals Issue #1 of "Surge of Power," introducing the wacky world of Big City, where Gavin Lucas (Vincent J. Roth) is "out" and proud about his comic reading penchant and longing to be a superhero. This science fiction parody is



complete with a mad scientist, Professor Ronald Richards (Robert Hurt), and his nemesis and former partner, Hector Harris (John Venturini), who sabotages his secret experiment in a classic freak accident that causes super-powers.

Hate crimes and bank robberies, oh my! Gavin enlists the reluctant professor in zany crime-fighting exploits, fashioning a battle suit and Gavin's Surge of Power identity, repeatedly rescuing the same Young Man (Joey Bourgeois),



"Surge of Power" can only be caught at film festivals for right now. For more information, check out www.surgeofpower.org.

and investigating a bizarre crime wave that indicates a new super villain in Big City more powerful than Surge of Power.

Even with input from science fiction veterans Nichelle Nichols, Lou Ferrigno and Noel Neill, can Surge of Power thwart the evil plans of the mysterious Metal Master? Are capes in fashion? Why can't Gavin throw a ball? Are some of these dudes ambiguous?

At one point, Gavin explores what it means to be a hero, seeks a higher power and decides whether to wear a cape. As our superhero comes out of a telephone booth with his cape in place, his cape gets stuck as he lands flat on his face. This is where Orange County's the Rev. Lillian Lobb makes a cameo appearance as one of the humored passers-by to this scene.

This is a lighthearted and fun movie filled with double entendres and hilarious scenes like using one victim's underwear as a slingshot. Well, you have to be there to get the full impact.

For more information, visit www.surgeofpower.org.