

THE SAGE / PRIME GENTLEMEN MOVIE

The year's most surprising twist ending is in a film about the selection of a new pope, reminding the viewer that the Vatican is a messy bitch that lives for drama. *Conclave* showcases the gaudy ritual and ornate displays of Roman



Catholicism, while also offering an intimate (and wholly imagined) look at the backroom dealings and catty confrontations that go into the election of the supreme pontiff. The film's ending is certain to catch audiences off-guard, but it's far from the only secret revealed — and it plays into the theme of progress versus tradition that serves as *Conclave's* central conflict.

Cardinal Lawrence, the dean of the College of Cardinals, is tasked with overseeing the papal conclave after the sudden death of the pope. His preferred candidate for the next bishop of Rome is Cardinal Bellini, a liberal with (relatively) forward-thinking

views. On the other side of the ideological divide are Cardinal Tedesco, a fierce critic of the late pope who thinks the church has become too open-minded, and Cardinal Adeyemi, who believes gay people should be condemned to prison, then hell. Then there's the ambitious Cardinal Tremblay, a candidate who skews liberal but whose only real belief seems to be that he should be pope. The movie ends with the election of a pope who is not a woman, but whose anatomy and existence "between certainties" allows for a far broader perspective on gender than traditionalist Catholics would have. In the end, all of the cardinals' bickering and betrayal can't thwart an ascension of feminine power that feels preordained. *Conclave* seems to suggest that "the world only spins forward." It's a hopeful and perhaps overly optimistic notion, to be sure, but in the present political milieu, it's not an unwelcome one.



ALL THE YOUNG DUDES

Georgia, USA, 1973. Glam Rocker Billy rebels against his conservative high school, inspiring admiration from an unlikely ally with a desire to walk on the wild side. Finding a kindred spirit when you feel alone in the world is everything. A moment of queer awakening portrayed in an 8-minute short film!

FRIDAY, MAY 16th, 2025

1:30PM *at the* PRIDE CENTER

FREE POPCORN and SODA