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ONE NATIONAL GAY & LESBIAN ARCHIVES PRESENTS A FASCINATING
EVENING OF DRAMA, HISTORY AND CIVIL RIGHTS

LETTERS

to **one**: *From Fringe to Forefront*

ONE kicks off its 60th Anniversary year celebration with star studded dramatic readings of heartfelt, poignant, and deeply personal letters written during the McCarthy era to *ONE Magazine*, the first widely distributed gay publication in the U.S. All proceeds benefit ONE Archives.

Saturday, October 6, 2012, 5-7pm

5:00pm-6:00pm Reception | 6:00pm-7:00pm Presentation, Q&A, and Performance

ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives
909 West Adams Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90007

Performances by



Dalila Ali Rajah (*Hart of Dixie, Grey's Anatomy*), **Beth Grant** (SAG Award Winner, *The Mindy Project*), **Doug Spearman** (*Noah's Arc*), **Hunter Lee Hughes** (*Winner Takes All*), and **Paul Jacek** (Joan Rivers).
Adapted and directed by **Zsa Zsa Gershick** (*Door Prize, Bluebonnet Court*). Cast subject to change.

Los Angeles — September 25, 2012 — On Saturday, October 6, 2012 ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives kicks off its 60th Anniversary year celebration with “Letters to ONE: From Fringe to Forefront”, featuring star studded dramatic readings of heartfelt, poignant, and deeply personal letters sent to the editors of ONE Magazine during the McCarthy era. All proceeds benefit ONE Archives. The evening will also feature the opening of the exhibition *Meeting in the Margins: 60 Years of Queer Organizations in the Archive*, which explores the history of LGBTQ organizations in Los Angeles through an extensive range of materials – documents, photographs, publications, video, T-shirts, banners, signs, ephemera and artworks – all from the collections at ONE Archives.

To kick off the evening, USC professor and ONE board member Chris Freeman joins historian Craig Loftin, author of *Letters to ONE* and *Masked Voices: Gay Men and Lesbians in Cold War America*, for a lively conversation about the experience of working with the unique collections at ONE Archives. The evening will then pay tribute to foundational queer legal organizations including the ACLU/SC LGBT Project and the Lesbian and Gay Lawyers Association, which have chosen to deposit their archives at ONE.

To close the program, an ensemble of highly acclaimed Los Angeles actors will present dramatic readings of letters written during the McCarthy era to ONE Magazine, the first openly gay publication in the U.S. Performers include **Dalila Ali Rajah** (*Hart of Dixie*, *Grey's Anatomy*), **Beth Grant** (SAG Award Winner, *The Mindy Project*), **Doug Spearman** (*Noah's Arc*), **Hunter Lee Hughes** (*Winner Takes All*), and **Paul Jacek** (Joan Rivers). The performance is adapted and directed by award winning LGBT playwright and director **Zsa Zsa Gershick** (*Door Prize*, *Bluebonnet Court*).

Long before the Stonewall riots, *ONE Magazine* – the first widely distributed gay publication in the United States – offered a positive viewpoint of homosexuality and encouraged gay people to resist discrimination and persecution. Despite a limited monthly circulation of only a few thousand, the magazine influenced the substance, character, and tone of the early American gay rights movement.

“Letters to ONE: From Fringe to Forefront” will dramatize a collection of letters written to *ONE Magazine*, of which only a select few were actually published in the 1950s and 60s. The letters speak of everything from the fear of police harassment and anti-homosexual job purges, to the isolation of living in secrecy, to the possibilities of love and defiance. Written more than half a century ago, these voices reached through the darkness, relieved to have, at last, found a public forum to share their stories, struggles, and desires. Each letter testifies to the inspiring and sometimes harrowing early American gay rights movement in the United States.

As part of [ONE's 60th Anniversary](#) initiative to spotlight the organizational history of queer L.A., *Meeting in the Margins: 60 Years of Queer Organizations in the Archive* will be on view at ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives beginning October 6, 2012, coinciding with the event “Letters to ONE: From Fringe to Forefront”. The exhibition strives to shed new light on numerous little-known queer organizations and histories, including social groups, activist collectives, legal rights organizations and community service providers.

Some organizations profiled include: ACT-UP/L.A.; Black and White Men Together, Los Angeles (BWMT/LA); the Blue Max Motorcycle Club; Catch One; the Los Angeles Gay Liberation Front (L.A. GLF); the Southern California Women for Understanding; and the Transsexual Action Organization (TAO). *Meeting in the Margins* is organized by David Frantz, Curator at ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives.

For more information and to purchase tickets please visit: onearchives.org/letterstoONE.

Letters to ONE: From Fringe to Forefront

\$100 VIP (*includes preferred seating and gift bag*)

\$50 General Admission

\$25 Student Admission

Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

All proceeds benefit ONE Archives.

Generous support for ONE's 60th Anniversary, including “Letters to ONE” and *Meeting in the Margins*, is provided by Wells Fargo. Additional support for “Letters to ONE” provided by the Lesbian and Gay Lawyers Association (LGLA) and Bennett and Erdman.



“Letters to ONE: From Fringe to Forefront” Participant Bios

Dalila Ali Rajah is Co-Creator and Executive Producer of the successful late night talk show, *Cherry Bomb!* A wonderful mixture of sandalwood, cinnamon, and cayenne pepper, she is an actress, producer, published poet, dancer, spoken word artist, painter, life coach and mother.

Chris Freeman teaches English and Gender Studies at the University of Southern California's Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. He earned a PhD in English and Gay Studies from Vanderbilt University and was proud to join the board at ONE Archives in 2009.

Zsa Zsa Gershick is the writer/director of the award-winning short film *Door Prize*, which has screened at more than 100 film festivals worldwide; the author of the plays *Coming Attractions* and *Bluebonnet Court* (winner of the 2009 GLAAD Award); and the books *Gay Old Girls* and *Secret Service: Untold Stories of Lesbians in the Military*.

Beth Grant is one of Hollywood's most recognizable faces, having over 80 features to her credit, including three Academy Best Pictures: *Rain Man*, *No Country For Old Men*, and *The Artist*. Other favorites are *Donnie Darko* and *Sordid Lives*. She is recurring on Fox's new show *The Mindy Project*, and stars in the NBC pilot, *Mockingbird Lane*. She has won two Screen Actors Guild Awards for Best Ensemble for *Little Miss Sunshine* and *No Country For Old Men*. On stage she is the recipient of three Ovation Awards, a Drama Critics Award, a Garland Award and an LAWeekly Award. She will soon be seen starring with Octavia Spencer and Dale Dickey in Del Shores' *Blues For Willadean*. Last year she directed a short, *The Perfect Fit*, soon to be distributed as part of six women's shorts called *Girls! Girls! Girls!*

Hunter Lee Hughes has appeared in more than 20 theatrical productions, several indie films and a television pilot. Seeking to explore territory considered uncomfortable by traditional Hollywood, Hunter created Fatelink, a transmedia production company with an emphasis on organic character development and creative risk. He's currently developing his first micro-budget feature film, *Inside-Out, Outside-In*.

Paul Jacek is a award-winning actor, writer, producer, and stand-up comic. Profiled in the *New Yorker* as a comic to watch, Paul recently finished writing for Joan Rivers. Heard Tuesday evenings 7-8pm, along with his comedy buddy, Mary Kennedy, on the wildly successful internet radio show, 'OH, MARY!' for LA Talk Radio.com Channel 2. He is honored to be asked to be part of this important project.

Craig Loftin is a Lecturer in American Studies at California State University, Fullerton. He is the author of *Letters to ONE: Gay and Lesbian Voices from the 1950s and 1960s* and *Masked Voices: Gay Men and Lesbians in Cold War America*, published by SUNY Press.

Doug Spearman is best known for his work as Chance Counter on the LOGO series *Noah's Arc*. He's a 30-year entertainment industry vet with a lot of work both in front and behind the camera. Currently Doug is prepping his first feature as a director – a gay noir comedy called *Hot Guys With Guns*.

About ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives

ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives is the oldest active Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning (LGBTQ) organization in the United States and the largest repository of LGBTQ materials in the world. Founded in 1952, ONE Archives currently houses over two million archival items including periodicals, books, film, video and audio recordings, photographs, artworks, organizational records and personal papers. The collections at ONE Archives are a part of the University of Southern California Libraries.

For more information, please visit onearchives.org.

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