



Periodically Queer Episode – Lavender Godzilla: In Search of Queer Ancestors – With Dino Duazo and John Silva

Audio transcript

Umi Hsu (00:03):

Hey y'all I'm Umi Hsu. I use they/them/theirs pronouns. I'm the Director of Content Strategy and ONE Archives Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to telling histories and stories about LGBTQ+ communities. I'm the Producer of Periodically Queer. For this year's pride season, we're kicking off a new podcast project. Periodically Queer explores the stories about LGBTQ+ periodicals, such as magazines and organizational newsletters as a way to learn about queer community building. What you're listening to is the first episode of our pilot season with a focus on LGBTQ+ communities of color. This season is made possible by a grant from the city of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs and many thanks to ONE Archives at the USC Libraries for providing research materials for this podcast.

Umi Hsu (01:09):

In this episode, I unwind some history and stories around Lavender Godzilla, a newsletter and magazine published by GAPA, GLBTQ+ Asian Pacific Alliance, formally known as the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance. GAPA was established in Berkeley, California in 1988. Through the pages of Lavender Godzilla, I take you on a tour through what it was like to be a member of a queer Asian community in the late 1980s and 1990s in the San Francisco Bay area. A little bit about me, I'm a queer and trans, non-binary Taiwanese American person who came of age in the 1990s while living in Virginia. I used to dream of a whole community of people, LGBTQ+ people of Asian descent, who were like me trying to live their lives in ordinary and extraordinary ways. From Lavender Godzilla, I can sense the activist spirit and community belonging that GAPA created. It invites the reader to learn about the intersection of being gay, queer, and Asian, and to dive into issues like immigration, racism, and family. It offers reflections on queer sexuality in ancient China and the Philippines, queer homoerotic artworks, and tributes to community members who are lost to AIDS.

Umi Hsu (02:31):

I loved reading these intimate reflections and sharings. I even enjoyed reading the mundane stuff like organizational updates and community calendars for events, such as the GAPA choir and theater performances. They made me feel like I'm a part of something larger than me, a feeling of kinship. Before we dig in, I'd like to provide some content warning about colonial violence. Please take care while listening. I had the privilege of speaking with Dino Duazo, one of the Co-editors of Lavender Godzilla and a Founding Member of GABA.

Dino Duazo (03:14):

My name's Dino Duazo. I'm one of the Founding Members of Gay Asian Pacific Alliance, which is transformed into GLBTQ+ Asian Pacific Alliance. And one of the prime features of GAPA at that time was having a newsletter just to share information about what the organization was doing, but also to share about perspectives from the queer API community. So, I was involved in the newsletter committee from the beginning. There was a bunch of us, but eventually I became one of the co-editors. I took a break for a little bit for a few years and then I became the newsletter editor again, like in the 2000's.