



## Periodically Queer Episode – Homan: A Beacon of Hope – With Albert Maghbouleh and Payam Ghassemlou

### Audio Transcript

Erik Adamian ([00:04](#)):

Hello, I'm Erik Adamian. I use he/him pronouns. I'm the Director of Education at ONE Archives Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to telling histories and stories around LGBTQ+ communities. You're listening to Periodically Queer, a podcast that explores the stories around LGBTQ+ periodicals, such as magazines and organizational newsletters as a way to learn about queer community building. This episode is a part 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 special thanks to ONE Archives at the USC libraries for providing research materials for this podcast.

Erik Adamian ([00:58](#)):

In this Periodically Queer episode, I'm taking you on a journey to learn about Homan, an organization and magazine that were formed to defend the rights of Iranian gays and lesbians living abroad. Between 1991 and 2002, Homan published 18 print issues of Homan Magazine, a magazine of cultural and sociopolitical studies of Iranian gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender issues. A few months ago, I had a wonderful opportunity of speaking with Albert Maghbouleh and Payam Ghassemlou, who co-founded Homan Los Angeles. We talked about their involvement in the magazine and how it created a community. We also talked about its impact and how it served as a beacon of hope for the Iranian LGBTQ community.

Erik Adamian ([01:43](#)):

As someone who's of Armenian Iranian descent and identifies as queer, this magazine holds a lot of personal significance for me. Talking to Albert and Payam made me feel like I was able to connect with the legacy of Homan for putting Iranian homoerotic content, gender expressions, and everything LGBTQ on paper before the time I was coming of age. I've never felt this way before, and I'm eager to share with you how this conversation unraveled my sense of self, identity, and place within the larger queer community. Before we dive in, I'd like to provide some content warning about self-harm and suicide. Please take care while listening.

Payam Ghassemlou ([02:28](#)):

Hello, my name is Payam, pronouns he/him. I'm a cisgender gay man. I was born in Tehran, Iran, and I escaped the country in 1982, came to Europe, and then came to United States. There was a time as a gay Iranian I was extremely isolated and there was no internet and in desperate need for connection and sense of belonging. I ran into other gay Iranians.

Albert Maghbouleh ([03:03](#)):

My name is Albert Maghbouleh. I was born in Tehran, Iran. I moved to Eugene, Oregon in 1975. I went to high school there for a year and college for five years. Then I moved to Los Angeles and I use he and him as gender.