



ARCHIVES FOUNDATION

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**ONE ARCHIVES FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES
SCREENING, PERFORMANCE, AND PANEL CONVERSATION LINEUP
FOR CIRCA: QUEER HISTORIES FESTIVAL**

**Programming Partners to Include the ACLU SoCal, Celebration Theatre, The
OUTWORDS Archive, Williams Institute, and More**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Los Angeles, CA (August 10, 2023) — ONE Archives Foundation announced today the film screenings, performances, and panel conversations lineup for its inaugural Circa: Queer Histories Festival. Circa will take place during LGBTQ+ History Month from October 1–31 and consists of a total of 70 programs, including 26 film screenings, performances, and panel conversations. The remaining lineup of nearly 40 additional programs will be announced soon.

Circa will showcase vibrant cultural productions and critical dialogues from established and emerging artists and organizations from across Los Angeles. Programming partners include the Williams Institute, the Getty Research Institute, the ACLU SoCal, Celebration Theatre, and The OUTWORDS Archive.

Film screenings include the Los Angeles premiere of director/producer Peter McDowell's award-winning documentary **JIMMY IN SAIGON (2022)**, a boundary-pushing biographical romance between an American from the Midwest and a Vietnamese man set against the backdrop of the Vietnam War. **WORKING (2022)**, made by trans artist and filmmaker Pau S. Pescador, is an examination of the experiences of trans individuals employed in the civil service sector. This screening includes a performance from the artist herself.

Circa's panel conversations include a discussion from the **ACLU of Southern California** on the last century of struggle for LGBTQ+ rights, featuring pioneer Reverend Troy Perry. A conversation from The **OUTWORDS Archive** will spotlight the voices and experiences of queer elders of color. Another panel will feature historian Lydia Otero and other activists who will discuss famed photographer **Laura Aguilar's *Latina Lesbian series***.

"Fighting for a more just and inclusive society requires deliberately inclusive learning and relearning," said Marcus Benigno, ACLU SoCal Chief Communications Officer. "It's why the ACLU SoCal in its centennial anniversary is proud to partner with ONE Archives Foundation at Circa to share our diverse and common stories and recognize our collective power."

Performances will range from live music and theater acts to performance art and variety shows. Writer-performer **Michael Kearns**, a fixture of the LGBTQ+ cultural landscape, joins Circa for his sixteenth solo show *IT MUST BE HIM, A Genderful Musical Memoir*, exploring the role of gender as a community elder. Performances will also spotlight beloved queer arts organizations celebrating milestone anniversaries, including a special preview concert of **The Gay Freedom Band of Los Angeles'** 45th anniversary program, and a 40th anniversary best-of **Celebration Theatre** performance featuring excerpts from the organization's most impactful theatrical moments since 1982.

"As one of Southern California's oldest LGBTQ+ nonprofits and one of the longest-running queer theatres in the world, Celebration Theatre is honored to take part in ONE Archives Foundation's inaugural festival spotlighting queer history," said Christopher Maikish, Executive Director of Celebration Theatre. "Our groundbreaking stories—the revolutionary triumphs, the hard truths, the poignant details—are our power as a community. We must embrace them if we are to continue to create progress together."

Circa 2023 will provide opportunities for LGBTQ+ and allied community members of all ages and affinities to explore the depths of queer joy, love, resistance, ancestry, solidarity, and liberation. All 70 programs this inaugural year will be available at low or no cost to the public at locations all across Los Angeles County, from the Westside, Eastside, North and South of LA and up into the Valley. Announcements regarding Circa 2023 exhibitions, workshops, readings, and more will be released later in August. The full festival lineup and ticketing information will be announced on September 6.

Sign up to receive email updates from Circa, including information on ticketing reservations at circafestival.org

As previously announced

Celebrating 70 years since the publication of the groundbreaking ONE Magazine, the ONE Magazine at Seventy exhibition will open Circa. Organized by ONE Archives Foundation, curated by ONE Archives at the USC Libraries, and co-presented with the Los Angeles LGBT Center, the exhibition will include an opening event on October 1 at the Center's Advocate & Gochis Galleries and courtyard.

Tickets to Circa's opening event will be available on September 6 at circafestival.org.

Circa: Queer Histories Festival is presented by ONE Archives Foundation. Circa is made possible with support from California Humanities, a non-profit partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Visit www.calhum.org. Additional support is provided by the City of West Hollywood.

More information on Circa, including our full lineup of programs, will be available on September 6: <http://circafestival.org/>

About the Films

AIDS DIVA: THE LEGEND OF CONNIE NORMAN: Documentary screening on the life of transgender AIDS activist, ACT UP LA member, and media personality, the late Connie Norman, followed by a conversation with the filmmaker and other collaborators. Directed by Dante Alencastre.

BABY, YOU ARE MY RELIGION (2017): Dive into lesbian bar culture with "Baby, You Are My Religion" and uncover how bars provided refuge, self-expression, and activism for gay women from the 1940s to 1980s. Directed by Kimberly Esslinger. Post-screening discussion features Marie Cartier, author of the book that inspired the documentary, and others.

CHARACHCHI: A multimedia project by and for queer Armenians founded by James Melikyan and Erik Adamian, will showcase a short documentary on queer SWANA sex workers and drag performers at LA's beloved local queer bar, Akbar.

CRUISE LA PRESENTS: BLOODSISTERS (1995): Director Michelle Handelman's provocative and pioneering documentary guide that shatters assumptions about gender and lesbian sexuality. Screening organized by CRUISE LA featuring Q&A panel with Tina Horn, Sheree Rose, and Rogelio Ruckus. Post-event reception to feature kink demos and tasters.

JIMMY IN SAIGON (2022): A boundary-pushing biographical romance between an American from the Midwest and a Vietnamese man set against the backdrop of the Vietnam War. Directed by Peter McDowell.

LGBTQ+ WOMEN'S SPACES PAST & PRESENT: From bars to bookstore to arts and political hubs, this film screening, conversation, and after-party explores LGBTQ+ women's communities, cultures, and social justice work and the importance of physical gathering spaces. Directed by Alexis Clements.

L.M.N.O.P.: LESBIAN MOVIE NIGHT ONGOING PROJECT: Exhibited as "shelf talkers" nestled within the video store collection at Whammy! Analog Media, ten contributors describe pivotal queer experiences of watching a film or TV show. Panelists include Anna Margarita Albelo, Yasmin Almanaseer, Luka Fisher, Martine McDonald, Irene (Your Muther), Naz Riahi, Irene Soriano, Fawzy Taylor, Valarie Walker, Veronika and Jane Wyman.

PATPONG NARCISSUS (2023): Based on James Bidgood's *Pink Narcissus*, *Patpong Narcissus* is an erotic visual poem that blends historical narrative and contemporary reality of Bangkok's infamous red-light district. World premiere screening and Q&A with artist and creator Oat Montien.

WORKING (2022): A short film that features interview stories of trans individuals working as government employees at a time when legal protections have become contested ground. Screening to conclude with performance by artist and filmmaker Pau S. Pescador.

About the Performances

40 YEARS OF CELEBRATION: In a retrospective that spans from 1982 to the present day, Celebration Theatre hosts an evening of performances from a selection of their most popular shows to date with original cast members. Featuring Parnell Damone Marcano, Brittney S. Wheeler, Christopher Maikish, Nathan Frizzell, Tom DeTrinis, and Michael O'Hara.

BUTCH VISIONS: A solo performance and facilitation that wrestles with generational queer wounds and guides us towards unraveling the emotional and relational strata of what being queer means so that we can be loved in real time. Performed by drag host and community organizer Provvidenza.

DEAR LOVER/DEAR HABIBI: A live theatrical storytelling performance featuring a selection of local LGBTQ+ artists and storytellers from the South West Asian/North African (SWANA) diaspora performing and reciting original poems, letters, songs, and

stories. Participants include Ramy El-Etreby, Randa Jarrar, Mohammed El Tayyeb, Habibah Layla Nour, Mona Ghannoum, and more.

GAY FREEDOM BAND OF LOS ANGELES 45TH ANNIVERSARY PREVIEW: Hour-long performance of GFBLA's upcoming 45th anniversary celebration showcasing the organization's rich history and passion for music. Musicians will share their stories between pieces. Organized by Gay Freedom Band of Los Angeles featuring Artistic Director Joseph Vranas.

IT MUST BE HIM: A GENDERFUL MUSICAL MEMOIR: Solo show exploring the role of gender from the consciousness of a community elder, featuring the lyrics and performances of female songs and singers. Written and performed by Michael Kearns.

QUEERPOCALYPSE: Concert performance featuring queer and trans musicians of color, including Keelah Tay, Ygslrhstfut, Byron Joae, and Mayalopolis. Organized by QueerPocalypse.

STIMULUS: STORIES OF SEX WORK AT THE MIC: Literary open mic event featuring poetry, stories, comedy, and music, with a focus on oral histories from current and former sex workers. Curated by West Hollywood Poet Laureate Brian Sonia-Wallace for Circa and The Mic @ Micky's monthly literary series.

About the Panel Conversations

AIDSTORIES: A panel discussion on the AIDS crisis and memory. Panelists include Mark Katz, MD, Ray Eelsing, Rabbi Lisa Edwards, and Rabbi Jillian Cameron. Organized by Beth Chayim Chadashim.

GJLA: A LEGACY OF TRANS LIBERATION: Celebrate twenty years of Gender Justice LA with a gallery walk and conversation on archival materials from GJLA and a panel featuring trans, gender non-conforming, and intersex organizers and artists, as well as past and present GJLA board and staff. Organized by Gender Justice LA.

IN CONVERSATION: CONTEXTUALIZING LGBTQIA+ TOPICS & ISSUES IN EDUCATION: Conversation on the past and present landscape of LGBTQIA+ topics in education featuring educators and researchers on the front lines of attacks against LGBTQIA+ topics in schools. Five panelists include Alex Rosado-Torres, Taylor Masamitsu, and others.

MAKING THE INVISIBLE VISIBLE: NAVIGATING QUEER IDENTITY IN PUBLIC SPACE: An intergenerational conversation bringing together key figures in the ACLU SoCal's century of impact to discuss the evolution of protest and advocacy for LGBTQ+ rights. Organized by the ACLU SoCal and featuring panelist the Reverend Troy Perry and others.

PANDEMICS + BOOKS: PUBLISHING HIV/AIDS IN THE EARLY COVID ERA: Join more than 20 authors and editors of over 50 HIV/AIDS books released between 2020–2023 for a virtual discussion on their books, ongoing pandemics, and their experiences in publishing. Organized by Theodore (ted) Kerr and Alexandra Juhasz.

THE INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL INQUIRY'S AIDS CHRONICLES (1994-2019): A CONVERSATION WITH ANTOINETTE LAFARGE AND DEBORAH CULLEN-MORALES: Join moderator Pietro Rigolo, curator at the Getty Research Institute (GRI), and members of the Institute of Cultural Inquiry (ICI) for an online conversation around projects related to memory and awareness during the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Organized by the Getty Research Institute.

THE LIVING QUEER ARCHIVE: Gathering artists, curators, and creatives who have contributed to the Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions' (LACE) living queer archive, panelists will share their connections to LACE and the archive and discuss the present and future of queer art in Los Angeles. Organized by LACE.

THROUGH OUR LENS: LAURA AGUILAR'S LATINA LESBIAN SERIES: A conversation on esteemed queer Latine photographer Laura Aguilar's that will discuss how her groundbreaking *Latina Lesbian* series provided a distinct perspective on the complexities of representation and identity within queer Latine art and cultural expression. Panelists include friends and subjects from the photographs Carla Barboza and Lydia R. Otero. Moderated by Christopher Anthony Velasco.

UNAPOLOGETICALLY WHOLE: QUEER ELDERS OF COLOR SPEAK OUT: Join queer elders of color as they reflect on their life's work at the forefront of LGBTQ+ and other social justice movements in Los Angeles. Organized by The OUTWORDS Archive.

THE WILLIAMS INSTITUTE AND TRANS LATIN@ COALITION PRESENT UNITY: An event raising awareness of UniTy's LGBTQ Call-back+ Study, a groundbreaking survey coming Fall 2023 of transgender and nonbinary people in Los Angeles County. The event will feature a cocktail hour, awards presentation honoring community activists and celebrities, and dance party. Organized by the Williams Institute and TransLatin@ Coalition.

About ONE Archives Foundation

Founded in 1952, ONE Archives Foundation is the oldest active LGBTQ+ organization in the country, dedicated to telling LGBTQ+ history and stories through education, arts, and social justice programs. Our one-of-a-kind exhibitions and public programs connect LGBTQ+ history and contemporary culture to effect social change. Through unique K-12 teacher trainings, lesson plans, and youth mentorship programs, we empower the next generation of teachers and students to bring queer history into classrooms and communities. As the independent community partner of ONE Archives at the USC Libraries, we promote the largest collection of LGBTQ+ materials in the world.

The curatorial and educational choices made by ONE Archives Foundation are guided by our commitment to social equity and justice. We engage with the complexity of LGBTQ+ history and representation through highlighting the intersectional narratives of Black, Indigenous, people of color (BIPOC), women, gender- nonconforming and transgender people, people of various abilities, youth, and elders across all socio-economic classes. Learn more at onearchives.org, and connect with ONE on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @onearchives.

SELECTED PRESS IMAGES



*My mother encouraged me to be a
court reporter...
I became a lawyer
Cube Cubya 4/9*



*I have a long way to go to be who
I would like to be.
Learn to learn, long to experience.
I hope I will always change things
that feel wrong, in the world,
and in myself.
lyric*





Image Credits:

1. The ensemble of Celebration Theatre's 2017 West Coast Premiere of the musical *The View UpStairs* by Max Vernon. Photo: Matthew Brian Denman Photography.
2. © Laura Aguilar. Courtesy of the Laura Aguilar Trust.
3. © Laura Aguilar. Courtesy of the Laura Aguilar Trust.
4. Photo from *Jimmy in Saigon* (2022).
5. "Troy Perry at LA's first pride parade," 1970. ONE Archives at the USC Libraries.
6. Photo from *Working* (2022). Created by Pau S. Pescador.
7. Photo from the Getty Research Institute.
8. Photo by Theresa Kennedy.
9. Gay Freedom Band of Los Angeles, 1984.

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