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Screenings, Parties, and Panel Conversations

circa QUEER HISTORIES FESTIVAL 2024
Presented by One Institute



Full lineup coming
September 10:
circafestival.org

**ONE INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES
PANEL CONVERSATIONS, SCREENINGS, AND PARTIES LINEUP
FOR CIRCA: QUEER HISTORIES FESTIVAL 2024**

Partners to Include the California LGBT Arts Alliance, Gender Justice LA, Jireh Deng, Brooke Sopelsa, Federico Erebia, and more

Tickets go online September 10 at circafestival.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Los Angeles, CA (August 13, 2024) — One Institute announced today the panel conversation, screening, and party lineup for the second annual **Circa: Queer Histories Festival**, the country's only LGBTQ+ History Month festival. Circa will take place during

LGBTQ+ History Month from October 1–31 and consists of a total of 67 programs, including 31 film screenings, performances, and panel conversations. The remaining lineup of nearly 40 additional programs will be announced soon.

The newly announced lineup of panel conversations includes Lambda Award-winning writer **Federico Erebia**, who will host celebrated historical fiction novelists **Rasheed Newson**, **Bushra Rehman**, and **Jeffrey Dale Lofton** for a discussion on writing coming-of-age stories with unapologetic and resilient queer protagonists. Meanwhile, NBC Out Editorial Director **Brooke Sopelsa** and panelists will explore the transformation of sapphic spaces from the 1920s-2020s. Another panel will feature authors, editors, and professors in conversation on the legacy of pioneering queer Chicana writer **Gil Cuadros**. As previously announced, One Institute will also host an opening plenary with *Los Angeles Times* staff writers reflecting on 100 years of queer history, and a closing plenary with award-winning writers including Eric Cervini, Roxane Gay, George M Johnson, and Tre'vell Anderson discussing what's at stake for LGBTQ+ people under a Harris or Trump administration.

“Our panel of authors will celebrate Queer icons who helped empower us as queer children, teens, and young adults, and repudiate the cultural villains who simultaneously sought to silence, erase, and destroy us,” said Federico Erebia. “Our collective and commemorated Queer history should guide our community as we hope to thrive and excel for generations to come.”

“The lives and legacies of queer people — especially lesbians and other women who love women — have been hidden for far too long,” said Brooke Sopelsa. “Circa gives us the unique opportunity to gather with our community to share and celebrate our ancestors' unearthed histories.”

Film screenings include writer and filmmaker **Jireh Deng**'s curated selection of short films from Cambodia to East LA that highlight the stories of Queer Asian elders. A screening of the hour-long documentary ***Transvisible: The Bamby Salcedo Story (2013)*** will tell the story of the renowned activist Bamby Salcedo's transformation into one of the most influential voices for the trans community. Finally, in a first for the festival, Circa's very own shorts program, “**Reel Resilience**,” will host four filmmakers for two 90-minute screening and Q&A sessions that inspire and challenge audiences to advocate for their communities and celebrate the enduring power of love.

Circa offers the opportunity for members of the queer and trans community to gather for parties and events online and in person all across Los Angeles. The 2024 festival will feature **Gender Justice LA**'s inaugural mixer and marketplace dedicated to supporting local transgender, gender expansive, and intersex (TGI) vendors, held at their Lincoln Heights center. **Xtina Webb** and **Yara Feghali** will host a two-part soirée featuring a panel conversation and dance party at Los Feliz's gay sports bar, Hi Tops, and **Queer**

Spa Network will provide a virtual space for queer encounters on the online social platform, GatherTown.

One Institute is thrilled to welcome new and returning programming partners including the California LGBT Arts Alliance, The Outwords Archive (OUTWORDS), CRUISE LA, and the San Gabriel Valley LGBTQ+ Center for a lineup that showcases the courage and talent of LGBTQ+ artists and changemakers throughout history and in the present, at a time when many challenges lie ahead for our LGBTQ+ communities, including a pivotal Presidential election.

“Queer and trans stories are ever important and are demanding to be heard,” said Rory Hayes, Public Programs Manager at One Institute. “This amazing curation of programs reminds us that being in dialogue with unique perspectives pushes us to be better. Staying connected to this year’s theme of LOVE and (R)EVOLUTION, let us lend an ear to those who have paved the way in the past as we look towards the architects of our future.”

Nearly all 65+ programs at this year’s **Circa: Queer Histories Festival** will be made available to the public for free or at a low cost as part of the festival’s ongoing commitment to accessibility. Further announcements regarding Circa 2024 exhibitions, performances, readings, workshops, and more will be released later in August. The full festival lineup and ticketing information will be announced on September 10.

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

As previously announced

Showcasing never-before-seen materials from newly-cataloged collections at ONE Archives at the USC Libraries, ***Our Patch: LGBTQ+ Life from Cradle to Grave*** is One Institute’s tribute to the diverse yet deeply intertwined histories of LGBTQ+ community care and movement-building in Los Angeles. The exhibition will be on view to the public September 29-October 31, 2024. The opening reception will take place on Sunday, September 29, 2024, 5-8 p.m. at the Los Angeles LGBT Center’s Advocate & Gochis Galleries.

In addition to the exhibition, Circa’s first week of programming will feature “**Our Queerest Century: A Conversation with the *Los Angeles Times*,**” an opening plenary discussing *The Times’ [groundbreaking retrospective of the last 100 years of queer politics, life, and culture](#)*, published in June 2024. Moderated by *Times* staff writer Kevin Rector, the panel will feature a discussion with writers who contributed to the project, delving into their pieces and reflecting on the exceptional contributions of LGBTQ+ people through history. The opening plenary will be held at the Los Angeles LGBT Center’s Renberg Theater on **Friday, October 4, 2024, 8-9:30 p.m.**

Award-winning LGBTQ+ writers Tre'vell Anderson, Roxane Gay, George M Johnson, and Eric Cervini will join One Institute at Circa's closing plenary, "**The Future of Queer History: LGBTQ+ Writers on the Election.**" The plenary will be a candid discussion about what's at stake for queer people, life and culture, in the climatic race between Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump. The event will take place just one week before the election on **Sunday, October 27, 2024, 7-8:30 p.m. at the Los Angeles LGBT Center's Renberg Theatre.**

Tickets to these events and more will be available on September 10 at circafestival.org.

Circa: Queer Histories Festival is presented by One Institute. Generous support for the festival comes from the Los Angeles County Department of Arts & Culture, California Arts Council, the City of West Hollywood, and Ares Management.

Panel Conversations

LEGACY OF LOVE: LGBTQ+ ELDERS TALK SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS: Panelists Rosalyne Blumenstein, Dr. Payam Ghassemlou, and Paul Outlaw engage with questions of assimilation, the continuing ripples of the HIV epidemic, chosen family, and celebrating our bodies. Organized by The Outwords Archive (OUTWORDS) and the Los Angeles LGBT Center Senior Services.

OUR QUEEREST CENTURY: A CONVERSATION WITH THE LOS ANGELES TIMES: Circa's opening plenary will discuss *The Los Angeles Times'* groundbreaking retrospective of the last 100 years of queer politics, life, and culture, published in June 2024. Moderated by Kevin Rector, the panel will feature a discussion with *Times* essayists on their pieces and reflecting on LGBTQ+ people through history. Followed by a reception with the panelists in the Center's courtyard.

(R)EVOLUTION AND (D)EVOLUTION: AN INTERGENERATIONAL HISTORICAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN GAY AND QUEER GENERATIONS: In a rare dialogue between opposite ends of the age continuum, Dr. Don Kilhefner (age 86) and August Bernadicou (age 30) will explore the Gay Liberation revolution ignited by Stonewall and where a (r)evolutionary spirit exists in young queer imagination and political and cultural activism today. Organized by The LGBTQ History Project.

GIL CUADROS: REVOLUTIONARY QUEER LOVE AND AIDS IN CHICANX/LATINX L.A.: Explore the profound legacy of Gil Cuadros with panelists Myriam Gurba, Omar González, Pablo Alvarez, and Rafael Pérez-Torres, with moderator Terry Wolverton, including a discussion of Cuadros' commitment to the revolutionary force of love and his role as an emotional historian of the AIDS era.

DON'T GO, DADDY!: UNSEEN POLAROIDS FROM THE DOWN AND OUT

ARCHIVE, 1978-1992: View a generation of gay men known mostly through activism, art, mourning, through the context of over 700 Polaroids that offer an intimate portrayal of a time before and during the emergence of safe sex practices. Organized by Sean Franz Griffin, in conversation with Ron Athey, and Reyah.

HISTORICAL FICTION AUTHORS ON QUEER ICONS AND CULTURAL VILLAINS:

In this panel, historical fiction novelists Federico Erebria, Jeffrey Dale Lofton, Rasheed Newson, and Bushra Rehman share their reflections on writing unapologetic and resilient queer protagonists. Followed by a Q&A.

DYKE DIVE LIVE: FRESH ON TAP: Hear personal stories and challenges behind iconic sapphic spaces in a live recorded podcast conversation with both former and current lesbian and sapphic club owners. Organized by Kimberly Esslinger and *Dyke Dive* with Dr. Marie Cartier.

CRUISE LA AND FUCK YEAH PODCAST PRESENT: FUCKING REVOLUTIONARY:

SEX WORK ACTIVISM & QUEER LIBERATION: Cruise LA and *Fuck Yeah* Podcast come together to highlight the queer sex workers' rights movement of the past 40 years with a live panel discussion and podcast recording, followed by a social space and resource fair by and for the queer sex worker community.

STORIES FROM THE LOS ANGELES BLACK LGBT COMMUNITY: Engage with interviewees' stories of the ways in which the Black LGBT community in Los Angeles came together to confront the AIDS epidemic. Organized by A Place to Be.

THE EVOLUTION OF SAPPHIC SPACES: FROM THE 1920S TO THE 2020S:

Explore the transformation of sapphic spaces from the private women's salons of the Roaring '20s to today's vibrant pop-up bars in this engaging panel conversation with Brooke Sopelsa, Alex Berg, Trish Bendix, and Sekiya Dorsett. Organized by NBC Out Editorial Director Brooke Sopelsa.

THE FUTURE OF QUEER HISTORY: LGBTQ+ WRITERS ON THE ELECTION:

Circa festival's closing plenary will convene acclaimed LGBTQ+ writers and journalists for a candid discussion about what's at stake in the climactic race between Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump. Moderated by Eric Cervini with panelists Tre'vell Anderson, Roxane Gay, and George M Johnson.

FAITH OUR WAY: A CONVERSATION WITH LGBTQ+ PEOPLE OF FAITH:

Explore how a new movement of queer people is transforming faith traditions into forces for social justice. Moderated by Yesenia Padilla with LGBTQ+ clergy and lay faith leaders Rev. Kimberly Scott, Rabbi Hannah Jensen, Rev. Dr. Antonio Gallardo, and Yunuen Trujillo as they share their experiences as queer people of faith. Organized by LA Voice.

REMNANTS OF RESISTANCE:

Featuring CSUN faculty members with expertise in queer theory, queer studies, and queer history, this panel is a live recording of an

episode for the podcast "Remnants of Resistance," a series of interviews conducted by Ellen Jarosz and Heidi Schumacher, supported by undergraduate students. Organized by CSUN's Queer Studies Program and University Library.

Screenings

BRIDGES ACROSS HOMELANDS: Premiere of a documentary film with interviews from San Francisco cultural pioneers Jewelle Gomez, Dr. Stephanie Anne Johnson, Madeleine Lim, and Kim Shuck. Following the film screening, there will be a community discussion featuring panelists Sonia Guiñansaca, Andi Xoch, and Jen Cheng and a light reception with art vendors, artmaking, and mingling.

LESBO: Community building event that features a rough-cut screening of the documentary *Free Beer Tomorrow*, which tells the story of Ohio's longest running, lesbian owned and operated bar. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion and Q&A with the filmmakers and cast. Organized by the directors and producers of *Free Beer Tomorrow*.

PEDALING WITH PURPOSE: Short documentary film in which six Papis, Black and Latino men, discuss the impact of HIV/AIDS on their communities, and how a 545-mile bike ride across California has changed their lives. Panelists include Alfredo Trejo III, Travion "Trae" Smith, Joseph Cipriano, Andrés Cantero Jr., and Cornelius. Organized by Team Puro Pinche Papi from AIDS/LifeCycle.

DRAG ON TAPE: COLLECTING ARCHIVAL FOR "THE OTHER DRAG"

DOCUMENTARY: Join filmmaker Larin Sullivan, director of *The Young King* and the new drag king documentary *The Other Drag*, alongside Alex Bohs, editor of *P.S. Burn This Letter Please*, for a screening and discussion on the process of finding, using and working with newly vintage drag tape. Organized by Drag Equity Project.

TRANVISIBLE: BAMBY SALCEDO'S STORY THEN AND NOW: Documentary screening chronicling the life of renowned Trans Latina activist Bamby Salcedo, founder and CEO of TransLatin@ Coalition. Panel discussion with filmmakers and producers Dante Alencastre and Roland Palencia will follow. Organized by the California LGBT Arts Alliance.

UNIDAD: GAY & LESBIAN LATINOS UNIDOS: Winner of a 2024 Los Angeles Press Club Award, *UNIDAD: Gay & Lesbian Latinos Unidos* is a feature documentary that tells the story of the country's first Queer Latine organization. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion with the filmmakers and original GLLU members. Directed and organized by Gregorio Davila.

RADICAL HARMONIES: Documentary produced and directed by Academy Award nominee Dee Mosbacher that chronicles the history of queer music by women (mostly lesbian) from the 1960s to the 1990s. Filmmakers Dee Mosbacher, Boden Sandstrom,

and Lisa Ginsburg will lead a Q&A following the screening, with a guest appearance by comic, producer, and activist Robin Tyler. Organized by Dee Mosbacher, MD, PhD.

QUEER ASIAN ELDERSON SCREEN: A curated selection of short films from Cambodia to East LA that highlight the stories of queer Asian elders. Post-screening panel with the award-winning filmmakers Mars Verrone, Tabitha Payne, Sundee Morrison, and Patrick Lee will be moderated by the co-founder of the Asian American Journalist Association's LGBTQ affinity group, Jireh Deng. Organized by Jireh Deng.

THE GORGEOUS NOTHINGS: Go behind the scenes of a new musical inspired by Queer history with *THE GORGEOUS NOTHINGS*. A glimpse into a production that recovers the true stories of inmates incarcerated for "crimes against nature" in New York's "Fag Ward" in the 1930s, where they were subjected to medical experimentation and purported cures. Organized by Life Jacket Theatre Company.

REEL RESISTANCE: THE CIRCA 2024 SHORT FILM FESTIVAL: A curated selection of films delving into the transformative power of love and the revolutionary spirit that has driven the LGBTQ+ community's journey through history. Featuring films by A. Allegra, Betsy Kalin, Carin Jacobs, and Meghan McDonough. Organized by One Institute.

Parties and Social Gatherings

DIGITAL SANCTUARIES: DESIGN YOUR DREAM GENDERQUEER SPA: Come engage with the contexts and histories of the AIDS epidemic, the ongoing COVID pandemic, and bathhouses as sites of queer encounter and healing with Queer Spa Network's online party, hosted on GatherTown. Organized by Queer Spa Network.

DOUBLE D – DIALOGUE & DANCE PARTY: A two-part soirée at Hi Tops Los Feliz that begins with a salon-style conversation with visionary queer women, non-binary, and trans social entrepreneurs, and ends with dancing, drinks, and food. Organized by Xtina Webb and Yara Feghali.

WELCOME HOME TO THE SGV LGBTQ CENTER: Celebrating the story and impact of The San Gabriel Valley LGBTQ Center, this exhibit will delve into the center's origins, regional and cross-cultural LGBTQ+ challenges, and the strong community that has flourished in response. Curated by the Art Queens Collective and Board President Camila Camaleón and organized by the SGV LGBTQ Center.

STR*PPER CO-OP PRESENTS: GHOULS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN! A HALLOWQUEERIVERSARY POP UP STR*P SHOW: Highlighting str*ppers of all races, genders, sizes, and sexualities, offering an unapologetic and inclusive celebration of their raw, unfiltered sexualities, the Str*pper Co-op presents "Ghouls Just Wanna Have Fun! A Halloweenqueeriversary Pop Up Str*p Show," celebrates Halloween and the third anniversary of their mission to revolutionize the str*pping industry. Organized by Str*pper Co-op.

GENDER JUSTICE LA PRESENTS: TGI PLAZA EXTRAVAGANZA!: Support local Transgender, Gender Expansive and Intersex vendors with Gender Justice LA's inaugural marketplace of curated TGI artist exhibits, performers, practitioners, goods, and services, including massage, reiki, acupuncture, and more. Masks required.

About One Institute

Founded in 1952, One Institute (formerly ONE Archives Foundation) is the oldest active LGBTQ+ organization in the United States. One Institute produces one-of-a-kind exhibitions and public programs that elevate queer and trans history and embrace emerging stories. Through K-12 teacher trainings, lesson plans, and youth mentorship programs, One empowers the next generation of teachers and students bringing queer and trans history into classrooms and communities. Additionally, the Institute assists in promoting the materials within ONE Archives at the USC Libraries, which houses the largest collection of LGBTQ+ materials in the world.

The curatorial and educational choices made by One Institute are guided by our commitment to social equity and justice. We engage with the complexity of LGBTQ+ history and representation through highlighting the intersectional and authentic 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 oneinstitute.org, and connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram [@oneinstitutela](https://www.instagram.com/oneinstitutela).

About Circa

Debuting in 2023, Circa: Queer Histories Festival is the first-ever LGBTQ+ History Month festival in the United States. This month-long celebration showcases an array of programs from hundreds of queer artists, writers, filmmakers, activists, and community organizations throughout October. With sections including conversations, screenings, exhibits, and more, the festival offers a unique and enriching experience for attendees across Los Angeles County and beyond.

Press Contact

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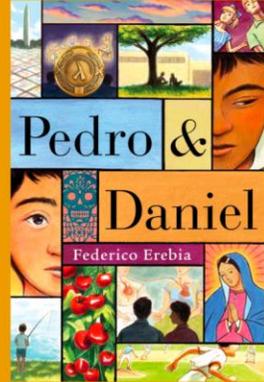
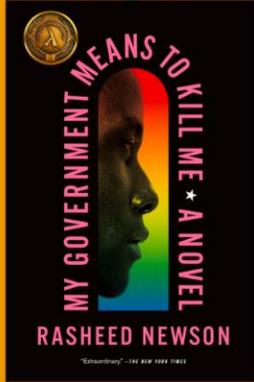
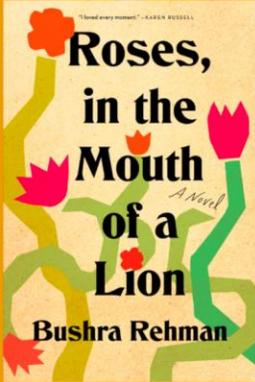






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