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**ONE INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING
FOR CIRCA: QUEER HISTORIES FESTIVAL 2025**

Festival Participants include ACLU of Southern California, Tourmaline, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Dr. George Chauncey, Abbe Land, and More

Tickets on Sale September 9

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Los Angeles, CA (August 26, 2025) – One Institute announced today additional programming for the 2025 **Circa: Queer Histories Festival**, including panels, lectures, performances, and more, presented with partners such as ACLU SoCal, Tourmaline,

LACMA, Abbe Land (former mayor of West Hollywood and former Trevor Project CEO), historian Dr. George Chauncey, and many more. As the nation's first and only LGBTQ+ history festival, Circa will take place throughout LGBTQ+ History Month in October, and feature 40+ free to low cost arts and humanities programs spotlighting the immense accomplishments of LGBTQ+ people.

The third annual Circa: Queer Histories Festival explores the theme, "Reclaiming Freedom," and invites audiences to investigate what freedom means to queer and trans communities in America during a time of rising authoritarianism. Featured events include a panel conversation with best-selling author **Tourmaline**, as she and ACLU lawyer and trans rights activist **Chase Strangio**, discuss the storied history of the ACLU's LGBTQ+ struggles and the present day fight for trans rights under the current administration. Distinguished scholar and nationally-awarded historian, **Dr. George Chauncey** will offer a lecture on his ground-breaking book, *Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay Male World, 1890-1940*. Drawing from his writings, Chauncey addresses gay male life in the city's racially segregated postwar neighborhoods in the generation before Stonewall. Audiences are also encouraged to explore the ways LGBTQ+ artists have shaped the cultural landscape of Los Angeles through **LACMA's** "Visible and Vibrant" tours, featuring permanent works in the museum's collection described by knowledgeable LACMA docents.

"LGBTQ+ folks find ourselves in a regressive political moment as the president and his MAGA followers shamefully dismantle trans and queer rights and cast our communities as a threat to children," said Tony Valenzuela, One Institute's Executive Director. "Circa challenges the president's and his followers' lies by spotlighting, through queer history-centered arts and humanities programs, our communities' immense historical impact on the social and political progress of this country."

Circa celebrates the diversity of the LGBTQ+ community with programs specific to the spectrum of queer experiences. One Institute will debut a generation-specific panel dedicated to centering the narratives of LGBTQ+ Gen Z leaders. Moderated by **Trevor Ladner**, One Institute's Director of Education Programs, the conversation will bring together young trailblazers working in local nonprofits, LGBTQ+ activism, and politics. Speakers include community organizer and Black trans performer **Hazel Louboutin Balmain**, Programs Manager at Latino Equality Alliance and queer community leader **Jasine Cumplido**, transsexual and Somos Familia Valle community organizer **Damiana Cano**, LGBTQ+ community advocate and UCLA public policy and politics alumni **June Paniouchkine**, and Associate Justice Deputy for Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath **Nick Wyville**. Panelists will discuss how the generation is taking lessons from queer and trans history and imagining new ways forward for our community.

Whittier College Professor **Sara Angevine** and GLAAD-nominated, award-winning writer **Trish Bendix** will convene for a special double feature lecture on the history of sapphic cultural icons and the origins of 'sapphic chic' throughout Los Angeles. Former mayor of West Hollywood and former Trevor Project CEO **Abbe Land** will explore the history of allyship and solidarity in our fraught political moment, in conversation with Chief Strategist for Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath **Cecilia Cabello**, nonbinary LGBTQ+ speaker, educator, and business consultant **Rex Wilde**, and former NFL linebacker and Chair of the Athlete Ally Advisory Board **Brendon Ayanbadejo**.

The festival also seeks to uplift joy and connection within the LGBTQ+ community. Audiences are invited to a night of queer history with a comedic twist, hosted by drag performer and fashion designer, **Godoy** and featuring an incredible line up of comedians: actor, writer, and musician **Dylan Adler**, host of shows *Out For A Drive* and *Hey Cool Cars* **Rachel Samples**, and actor **Vinny Thomas**. Social practice art workshop, **Scissor Siblings**, inspires participants to build community through zine making, and spoken-word reading on drag and resistance, hosted by community leader **Miss Barbie-Q (Sydney Rogers)**, will serve as a space for queer communities to gather.

Tickets for these programs as well as the full lineup for this year's **Circa: Queer Histories Festival** will be available Tuesday, September 9. Sign up on the festival website to receive updates and to be the first to know when tickets are made available: circafestival.org.

One Institute's Circa Festival Featured Events:

MARSHA: THE JOY AND DEFIANCE OF MARSHA P. JOHNSON — TOURMALINE IN CONVERSATION WITH CHASE STRANGIO: In conversation with Chase Strangio, Tourmaline will also discuss her latest book, the first definitive biography of the revolutionary activist Marsha P. Johnson—one of the most important and remarkable figures in LGBTQ+ history—and how her story and legacy can inspire us today.

DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR LECTURE: RETHINKING THE CLOSET: NEW YORK GAY LIFE BEFORE STONEWALL: In this lecture, professor and historian Dr. George Chauncey will discuss gay male life in the city's racially segregated postwar neighborhoods and the impact of the Second World War on gay consciousness and cultural styles that existed in the generation before Stonewall.

VISIBLE AND VIBRANT: LGBTQ+ ARTISTS IN LACMA'S COLLECTION: Visible and Vibrant is a docent-led tour series celebrating LGBTQ+ artists in LACMA's collection. Open to all ages, the tours explore how identity shapes art, inviting reflection, conversation, and discovery. Join us for a dynamic look at creativity, community, and the stories behind the art.

THE ALPHABET MAFIA: GEN Z LEADERS ON THE LGBTQ+ MOVEMENT TODAY: Moderator Trevor Ladner will guide five young leaders in nonprofits, activism, and politics in a discussion on queer and trans history and share perspectives on how young leaders are working to secure our joy, rights, and freedoms today. Panelists will include activist and performer Hazel Louboutin Balmain, Latino Equality Alliance Programs Manager Jasine Cumplido, Somos Familia Valle organizer Damiana Cano, community advocate June Paniouchkine, and Associate Justice Deputy for Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath Nick Wyville.

SAPPHIC CHIC: FROM LESBOS TO LOS ANGELES & SAPPHO WAS A POP STAR: A HERSTORY OF SAPPHIC POP: Join for this double feature panel as political science Professor Sara Angevine and pop culture writer Trish Bendix take audiences through a discussion about the concept "Lesbian Chic" and how lesbian and sapphic identity interact with art and media.

ALLYSHIP AND THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY: Explore the nuances of allyship and solidarity with panelists Cecilia Cabello, Rex Wilde, Abbe Land, and Brendon Ayanbadejo. They will be engaging in discussion about what showing up for others and advocacy for the LGBTQ+ community means to them.

QUEERSTORY: A QUEER COMEDY NIGHT: Hosted by drag performer and fashion designer Godoy and with a spectacular line up made up of writer and musician Dylan Adler, Host of Out For A Drive Rachel Samples, and comedian and guest writer for NPR's Wait Wait Don't Tell Me Vinny Thomas. Through sharp wit and hilarious storytelling, they'll take you on a wild ride through queer history with a comedic twist. Join us for a night of unapologetic joy, community, and side-splitting laughs.

SCISSOR SIBLINGS: A QTPOC ZINE MAKING WORKSHOP: Centering the lived experiences of QTPOC+ communities, this social practice art workshop uses collage, zines, and mixed-media to explore identity, challenge stigma, and honor the history of gender variance—especially within Latinx and Indigenous traditions.

FREEDOM IN HEELS: RECLAIMING ACTIVISM THROUGH DRAG: Veteran drag performer and community strategist Miss Barbie-Q engages the audience through

spoken-word alongside archival footage and recorded reflections from queer and trans drag artists, linking past uprisings to present battles.

As previously announced

Circa's headlining exhibition ***The Sky is Always Falling*** features never-before-seen documents and photographs from ONE Archives at the USC Libraries, alongside original works by artists that showcase radical moments of queer resistance, and the resilience of LGBTQ+ activists and artists in Los Angeles during the HIV/AIDS crisis. The opening reception of the exhibition will take place on **Sunday, September 28, 2025 from 4–7 p.m. at the LA LGBT Center's Advocate & Gochis Galleries. *The Sky is Always Falling* will be on view to the public from September 28-October 31, 2025.**

In addition to the exhibition, a panel featuring original members of ACT UP/LA, **Judy Sisneros, Helene Schpak, and Jordan Peimer**, will take place on **Saturday, October 11, 2025, 7–9 p.m. at the LA LGBT Center's Advocate & Gochis Galleries** organized by ACT UP/LA's oral history committee.

The LA LGBT Center will also host two screenings as a part of the exhibition. The Center will feature a recording of **Reza Abdoh's** final play in Los Angeles, "Quotations of a Ruined City," on **Wednesday, October 22, 7–8:30 p.m.**, as well as **Ron Athey's** "Torture Trilogy" on **Friday, October 24, 8–9 p.m. at the LA LGBT Center's Renberg Theatre** followed by a conversation with special guests.

Tickets to these events and more will be available on September 9 at circafestival.org.

Circa: Queer Histories Festival is presented by One Institute and is the first and only LGBTQ+ History Festival in the U.S. All programs taking place at the Los Angeles LGBT Center are co-presented with the Center. Generous support for the festival comes from Third District Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, the City of West Hollywood, Uptown Gay & Lesbian Alliance (UGLA), Paul Lerner & Steve Reis, Los Angeles County Department of Arts & Culture, and Fifth District Supervisor Kathy Barger. ABC7 is the Circa Festival's official broadcast sponsor.

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.

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.

Press Contact

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SELECTED PRESS IMAGES



one INSTITUTE  LOS ANGELES LGBT CENTER

Co-Presented by One Institute and the Los Angeles LGBT Center

a conversation with Gen Z leaders
on the LGBTQ+ movement today

The Alphabet Mafia



Wednesday, Oct. 8 7-8:30 PM Advocate & Gochis Galleries Los Angeles LGBT Center

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LOS
ANGELES
LGBT
CENTER

Allyship and the LGBTQ+ Community

A CONVERSATION ABOUT WHAT IT
MEANS TO BE AN ALLY TODAY

Co-Presented by One Institute and the Los Angeles LGBT Center

Thursday, Oct.9 7- 8:30 p.m. LA LGBT Center's Renberg Theatre



Cecilia Cabello



Rex Wilde



Abbe Land



Brendon Ayanbadejo

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LOS
ANGELES
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Queerstory: A Queer Comedy Night



Danny Godoy

Co-Presented by One Institute
and the Los Angeles LGBT Center



Dylan Adler



Rachel Samples



Vinny Thomas

Friday, Oct.10 8- 10 p.m.

LA LGBT Center's Davidson-Valentini Theatre

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DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR LECTURE

Rethinking the Closet: New York Gay Life Before Stonewall

with Dr. George Chauncey (he/him)

Saturday
October 25, 2025

7-8:30 pm
with a reception
to follow

Renberg Theatre at the
Los Angeles LGBT Center

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