



INDIECOLLECT

A Program of the Laboratory for Icon & Idiom, Inc.



FOR RELEASE OCTOBER 16, 2017

Sandra Schulberg, President, IndieCollect, sandra.schulberg@indiecollect.org, 917 667 6077

Robert Hawk, Queer Cinema Index Project Director, bob.hawk@indiecollect.org, 646 234 5633

Film Collector Gerald Herman Funds IndieCollect's Queer Cinema Index Robert Hawk to Serve as Project Director

October 16, 2017 – New York City. IndieCollect, the non-profit organization whose mission is to collect, document, restore, and make accessible American independent films, announces its Queer Cinema Index -- the first attempt to create a comprehensive online compendium of LGBTQ films, television series and webisodes made in the U.S. and around the world. It is being launched with \$40,000 in funding from film collector and curator Gerald Herman and other private donors. The database has been designed by IndieCollect's chief technology officer Israel Ehrisman, who also designed the IndieCollect Index.

Famed film curator and producer Robert Hawk – profiled in the documentary *Film Hawk* -- is to serve as project director. IndieWire founder Eugene Hernandez calls Mr. Hawk “a walking index of Queer Cinema.” Mr. Hawk and Mr. Herman are two of the producers of Vincent Gagliostro's *After Louie*, starring Alan Cumming, which will have its New York City premiere at NewFest on October 22.

The QCI team aims to index the first 8,000 motion pictures and TV episodes in six months, by approximately mid-March 2018. Caroline Oliveira and Adam Andre – from NYU's Moving Image & Archive Preservation program (MIAP) – have already vetted more than 1,000 titles and readied them for inclusion. Mr. Hawk is concentrating on the films that are more obscure and difficult to find. Gerald Herman and the first group of donors, designated as “Founding Sponsors,” will get a sneak peek before the Index is made public.

Based on data collected so far, Mr. Ehrisman estimates that the first public version of the Queer Cinema Index, to be unveiled in the fall of 2018, will catalogue more than 15,000 titles, including rare motion pictures such as *Le Beau Mec*, a 1978 Franco-American feature film directed by Wallace Potts with uncredited contributions from Nestor Almendros and Rudolph Nureyev; and *Olivia* (aka *The Pit of Loneliness*) from 1951, by Jacqueline Aubry, a lesbian drama with a screenplay by Colette that was far ahead of its time.

The QCI will also catalogue complete episode information on ground-breaking series *Tales of the City*, *The L Word*, *Transparent* and *Will and Grace*, among others.



INDIECOLLECT

A Program of the Laboratory for Icon & Idiom, Inc.



This searchable online catalogue is being developed with the assistance of key strategic partners, building especially on the efforts of UCLA Film & Television Archive and Outfest. UCLA Film & Television Archive holds the largest publicly accessible collection of LGBT films in the world, and since 2005 has been partnered with Outfest on the Outfest UCLA Legacy Project for LGBT Moving Image Preservation.

Additional research will be done at The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center in New York City, home of the Pat Parker/Vito Russo Library.

The Queer Cinema Index should be a valuable resource for scholars, programmers, festival directors, distributors, archivists, and cinephiles. It is part of a larger IndieCollect initiative that involves digital restoration of important LGBTQ films.

In 2016, IndieCollect created 4K digital restorations of a number of short films produced in the 1980s and early 1990s by Christine Vachon and Todd Haynes under their Apparatus Productions banner: <http://filmmakermagazine.com/100247-politics-of-style/#.WMYC4BlrKNY>. Their most recent collaboration, *Wonderstruck*, was featured at the 55th New York Film Festival.

IndieCollect is currently restoring *Thank You and Good Night*, by Jan Oxenberg, whose work is featured in Vito Russo's landmark book, *The Celluloid Closet*, and who appears in Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman's eponymous documentary film. The 4K restoration of *Thank You and Good Night* will premiere at the Museum of the Moving Image in March 2018, as part of a special tribute by the Queens World Film Festival.

IndieCollect is funded with grants from the Ford Foundation / Just Films, the Weissman Family Foundation, and with the support of private donors.

For information about the career and credits of Robert Hawk:

http://filmhawk.com/filmhawk.com/filmHAWK_BIO.html

For more information about the Queer Cinema Index, please contact:

Sandra Schulberg. President, IndieCollect

sandra.schulberg@indiecollect.org

917 667 6077

Robert Hawk. Project Director, Queer Cinema Index

bob.hawk@indiecollect.org

646 234 5633

675 Third Ave, 32nd Floor, New York, NY 10017
www.indiecollect.org