

INDIECOLLECT

THREE INDIECOLLECT RESTORATIONS
Celebrate LGBTQ+ Cinema at



PIONEERS OF QUEER CINEMA

Presented by UCLA Film & Television Archive
February 18 – March 28, 2022
Billy Wilder Theater (inside Hammer Museum)
10899 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90024

[Register for Free Now!](#)

At long last, PIONEERS OF QUEER CINEMA is coming to the Billy Wilder Theater in Los Angeles!

The historic retrospective, organized by UCLA Film & Television Archive and IndieCollect, in association with Outfest, showcases landmark queer films alongside lesser-known gems, and features Q&A's with directors, historians and activists, to broaden the discussion around the legacy and future of LGBTQ+ cinema.

Tickets for the program are free, but you must register to ensure your seat!

[Register for Free Now!](#)



Long-time IndieCollect collaborator – and godfather of our Queer Cinema Index – Bob Hawk played a huge role in the curation of these films. He writes:

"It was only after we finalized the titles for the Pioneers of Queer Cinema series that I realized I knew – professionally and/or personally – 21 of the filmmakers therein, including the five makers of WORD IS OUT.

In 1976 I attended a five-and-a-half-hour work in progress screening of WORD in a Unitarian Church in San Francisco. It was not even a rough cut, more of an assembly, and it changed my whole direction – leading me from a life in the theater to one in independent film."



With funding from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association and private donors, IndieCollect created new 4K restorations of three films for the series.

COMING OUT UNDER FIRE by Arthur Dong (1994)

Award-winning filmmaker and author Arthur Dong's 1994 "Coming Out Under Fire" is the first of three expertly and efficiently crafted documentaries about homosexual repression and persecution, which are now considered by many as his "Roots of Homophobia" trilogy.

Based on the landmark book by Allan Bérubé, "Coming Out Under Fire" fuses captivating interviews with nine gay women and men with archival images and documentation, as well as the 1993 Congressional debates around gays in the military. The political birth of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" in this era serves as a prescient backdrop to the protagonists' heartfelt and resilient stories in the face of systemic and administrative subjugation. The film's powerful and poignant message was celebrated widely, and the film went on to win top film festival awards at Sundance, Outfest, Berlin, Chicago, and San Francisco, to name a few.

— Todd Wiener



A COMEDY IN SIX UNNATURAL ACTS by Jan Oxenberg (1975)

This 1975 series of black and white vignettes interprets six stereotypes of lesbians as a series of sketches worthy of a queerer, more experimental Saturday Night Live. The Wallflower, Role-Playing, Seduction, Non-Monogamy, The Child Molester, and The Stompin' Dyke are satirical depictions of insults levied at lesbians, but writer-director Jan Oxenberg's humor twists each ending into feel-good fun, unseen in any mainstream filmic depiction of queer characters of the time. The short's self-aware humor is buoyed by a cast and crew of queer female artists and friends, whose authenticity combines with a shoestring production budget to deliver a genuine laugh at the expense of heterosexuality.

Since her first film, "Home Movie" (1973) which explores Oxenberg's personal feelings surrounding her own coming out, Oxenberg (b. 1950) has been committed to creating work that always comes from an insider's point of view, rather than a watered-down outside view of lesbian identity. With her background as one of the first members of the feminist art collective Womanhouse (alongside Judy Chicago and Miriam Schapiro), and a former participant of the Education Liberation Front, Oxenberg brings wry, honest, and unexpected perspectives to all her film work, documentary and fiction alike.

— Shayna Warner



BLACKSTAR: AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A CLOSE FRIEND by Tom Joslin (1977)

This experimental, self-ethnographic documentary blends breathtaking, moving snapshots from the natural, field, filmic cultural touchstones, and cutting (pseudo) cinema vérité to dissect and reassemble Joslin's gay identity, despite constant warnings to stay in the closet. As interviews with Joslin's mother, father and brothers attempt to break down the legitimacy of Joslin and his partner Mark Massi's romance, the pair use everything at their disposal, including inspiration from gay revolutionaries and painfully honest conversations, to hold up their "abnormality" as a point of pride rather than shame.

That Joslin's career was cut short by the devastation of AIDS is made all the more poignant by the power of his eye and heart. In "Blackstar", perhaps more than any of his other films, he unflinchingly captures casual devastation, meditations on premature loss, and his own determination to stop lying — actions which serve as reminders to reach for personal and political self-love at every turn.

— Shayna Warner

COMING OUT UNDER FIRE

by Arthur Dong



February 20, 2022

7:00 pm

In-person Q&A with filmmaker Arthur Dong, moderated by Brendan Lucas, Outfest UCLA Legacy Project Manager.

Screening alongside *Tongues Untied* by Marlon Riggs (1989).

Restoration funded by The Andy Warhol Foundation of the Visual Arts, Hollywood Foreign Press Association, and IndieCollect Donors Circle.

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A COMEDY IN SIX UNNATURAL ACTS

by Jan Oxenberg



March 14, 2022

7:30 pm

In-person Q&A with filmmaker Jan Oxenberg.

Screening alongside *The Watermelon Woman* by Cheryl Dunye (1996).

Restoration funded by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Hollywood Foreign Press Association, Jane Fonda Fund for Women Directors, and IndieCollect Donors Circle.

[REGISTER FOR FREE](#)

BLACKSTAR: AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A CLOSE FRIEND

by Tom Joslin



March 20, 2022

7:00 pm

Video introduction from filmmaker Mimi (Kim) Klausner.

Screening alongside *Choosing Children* by Debra Chasnoff and Kim Klausner (1985).

Preservation funded by The Andy Warhol Foundation of the Visual Arts and IndieCollect Donors Circle.

[REGISTER FOR FREE](#)

SPECIAL THANKS

Bob Hawk was the inspiration for our Queer Cinema Index, but it was a Israel Ehrisman who designed it. Special thanks to Israel and to Gerry Herman, founding sponsor of the Index. We are pledging to find a way to make the Queer Cinema Index public in 2022.

[Let us know if you want to help.](#)



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