

INDIECOLLECT

Frameline Fest to feature **CIRCUS OF BOOKS** and **MAKING MONTGOMERY CLIFT**

San Francisco Bay Area fans of Frameline will get a chance to see two marvelous films financed in part by IndieCollect board member Gerry Herman.



CIRCUS OF BOOKS by Rachel Mason
Fri, June 21, 4pm, Castro Theatre
Purchase tickets [here](#).

For decades, Karen and Barry Mason were the proprietors of Circus of Books, a small but mighty gay pornography outlet nestled in the heart of West Hollywood. Starting out as distributors of Hustler Magazine to support their growing family, the modest couple never expected to become pillars of the community, let alone operate a space referred to as “the center of the gay universe.” With their unassuming storefront, the Masons provided a sanctuary for men to explore their homosexuality at a time before it was accepted. The couple even faced prison time for obscenity during the Reagan era, and they would eventually become the biggest distributors of hardcore gay films in the country, all while raising three children (within a surprisingly conservative home environment).

Featuring salacious stories and candid interviews with former patrons and employees, including drag superstar Alaska Thunderfuck, adult film legend Jeff Stryker, and publishing titan Larry Flynt, filmmaker Rachel Mason peels back the curtain on her parents’ unlikely rise within the industry and LGBTQ+ community, and how their humble business became an historic landmark in this exuberant and penetrating documentary about a traditional family that was anything but. — Jesse Knight, Frameline



MAKING MONTGOMERY CLIFT by Robert Clift & Hillary Demmon
Sun, June 23, 4pm, Castro Theatre
Watch the trailer & purchase tickets [here](#).

It is almost impossible to separate Montgomery Clift’s legacy from the tragedies that cast a pall over it: his brutal car crash, closeted sexuality, drug and alcohol abuse, and his untimely death at the age of 45. Even the two popular biographies of the actor — whose esteemed credits include *Suddenly*, *Last Summer* and *From Here to Eternity* — painted his life as what Clift’s acting teacher Robert Lewis deemed “the longest suicide in Hollywood history.” Frustrated by the pervasive misperception of Clift as self-destructive, his nephew Robert Anderson Clift—alongside codirector Hillary Demmon — set out to discover who Monty really was. Through interviews with family and loved ones, this lovingly-crafted documentary reexamines the accepted notion of Clift as tragic, revealing a complicated portrait of a vibrant star. Previously unreleased archival footage and audio unearthed by Clift’s brother Brooks offer a different look at Monty: one of warmth. Here the focus is put back on the icon’s passions, his hard work, and his enduring legacy as an artist. — Elliott Breeden, Frameline

Meet the filmmakers and Gerry Herman at both of the Frameline screenings. I will get to San Francisco in time to join you for *Making Montgomery Clift*.

All my best,

Sandra Schulberg and the IndieCollect Team



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