

ALVIN AILEY JR.

b. January 5, 1931

d. December 1, 1989

"I am trying to show the world that we are all human beings and that color is not important. What is important is the quality of our work."

A prolific choreographer, Alvin Ailey created 79 original works for his company. His signature piece, "Revelations" (1960), is touted as the most-watched work of modern dance.

Alvin Ailey Jr. was an internationally acclaimed dancer and choreographer. He founded the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, a dance company hailed as an ambassador of American culture. Ailey formed a multiracial company and revolutionized dance, incorporating elements of ballet and jazz, along with modern and African dance, into his work.

Ailey grew up in Rogers, Texas, the son of a young, struggling single mother. His father abandoned the family when Ailey was six months old. In 1941, the family moved to Los Angeles, where Ailey met Lester Horton, who ran the first multiracial dance school.

Horton took Ailey under his wing, teaching him a variety of dance styles and techniques. In 1953, Ailey joined Horton's company. Later that year, he was named artistic director.

In 1954, Ailey made his Broadway debut dancing in "House of Flowers." He also performed in "Sing, Man, Sing" with Harry Belafonte and in "Jamaica" with Lena Horne.

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In 1957, Ailey established the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. The company's premiere performance, "Blues Suite"—a riveting work reflecting the African-American emotional experience—defined Ailey's theatrical and eclectic style.

A prolific choreographer, Ailey created 79 original works for his company. "Revelations" (1960), recognized as his signature piece, is touted as the most-watched work of modern dance. "Cry" (1971), one of Ailey's most successful works, was dedicated to his mother and African-American women.

In 1979, Ailey received the Springarn Medal for outstanding achievement from the NAACP. In 1988, he was recognized with a Kennedy Center Honors Award.

Ailey died at age 58 from complications of AIDS. In his memory, a section of West 61st Street in New York was named "Alvin Ailey Way."

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JOHN AMAECHI

b. May 29, 1947

“It was absolutely my ultimate goal to play in the NBA,” says Amaechi. In 1995, his dream became reality.

“I am gay, black, British ... and I am now asserting my activism.”

John Amaechi is the first NBA player to speak publicly about being gay. In 2007, three years after retiring from pro basketball, he became one of only six male professional athletes in the four major U.S. sports to come out.

Esera Tuaolo, an NFL player who came out in 2002, said of Amaechi, “What John did is amazing. He does not know how many lives he’s saved by speaking the truth.”

Amaechi, the son of a Nigerian father and a white British mother, grew up in England. When he started playing basketball at 16, his right hand was nearly severed in an accident. As a result, Amaechi became ambidextrous, which helped him become a better basketball player. Amaechi played basketball at Penn State University, where he was twice selected a First Team Academic All-American.

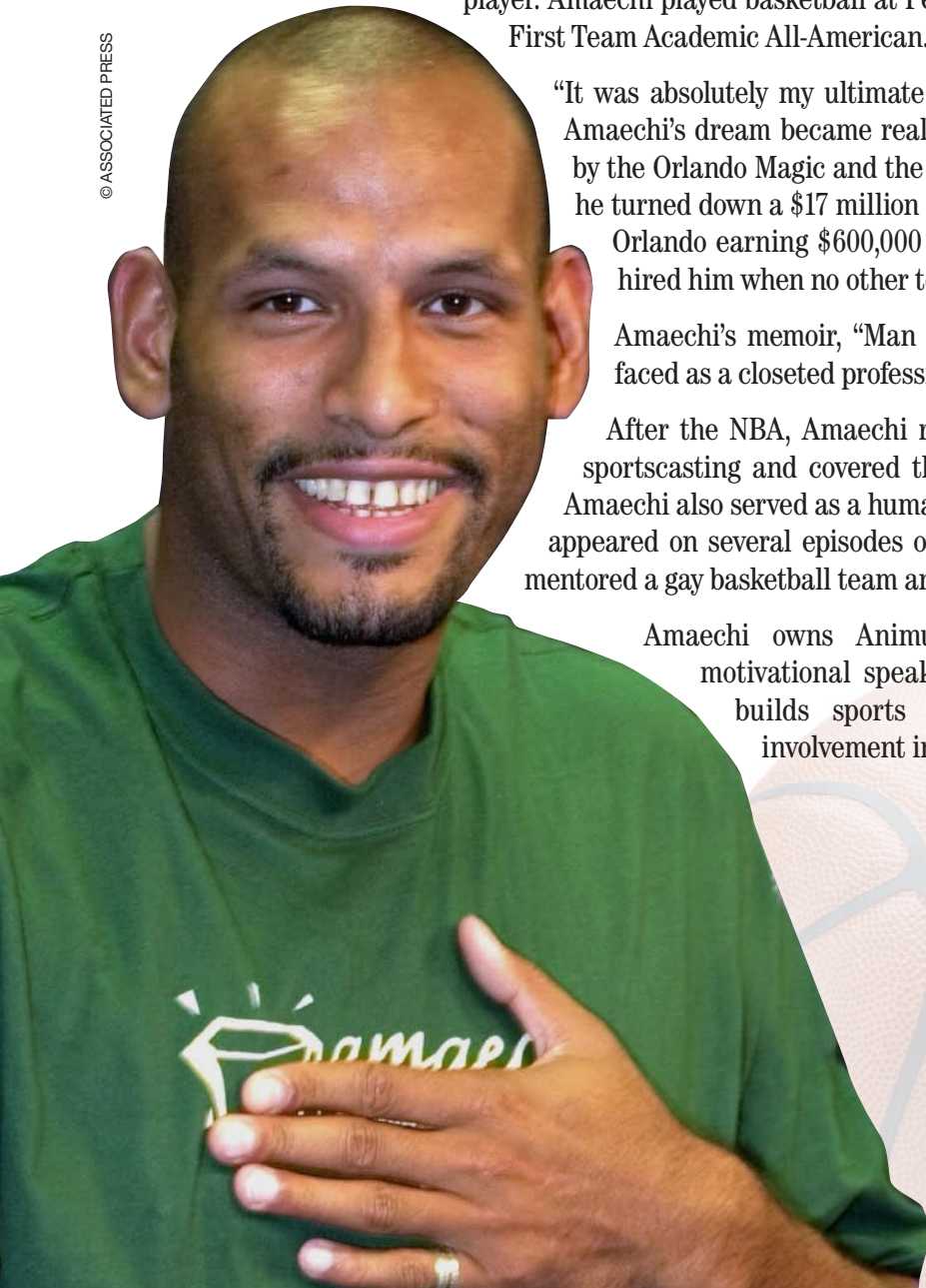
“It was absolutely my ultimate goal to play in the NBA,” says Amaechi. In 1995, Amaechi’s dream became reality. He played for the Cleveland Cavaliers, followed by the Orlando Magic and the Utah Jazz. In 2000, Amaechi made headlines when he turned down a \$17 million offer from the Los Angeles Lakers. Opting to stay in Orlando earning \$600,000 a year, Amaechi remained loyal to the Magic, who hired him when no other team would.

Amaechi’s memoir, “Man in the Middle” (2007), explores the challenges he faced as a closeted professional athlete.

After the NBA, Amaechi returned to Britain, where he turned to television sportscasting and covered the 2008 Beijing Olympics for the BBC. In Beijing, Amaechi also served as a human rights ambassador for Amnesty International. He appeared on several episodes of “Shirts & Skins,” a Logo reality series, where he mentored a gay basketball team and shared his experiences as an out athlete.

Amaechi owns Animus Communications, a company that provides motivational speakers. He established the ABC Foundation, which builds sports centers in Britain and encourages children’s involvement in sports and their communities.

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TAMMY BALDWIN

b. February 11, 1962

“There will not be a magic day when we wake up and it’s now O.K. to express ourselves publicly. We make that day by doing things publicly until it’s simply the way things are.”

A self-proclaimed “forceful supporter of civil rights and those whose voices are not heard,” Baldwin spearheaded efforts to pass inclusive hate crimes legislation and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA).

Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin is the first out lesbian elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. As of 2009, she is one of three openly gay members and the first openly gay non-incumbent elected to Congress.

Born in Madison, Wisconsin, Baldwin was raised by her mother and maternal grandparents. She graduated from high school at the top of her class and attended Smith College, where she majored in government and mathematics.

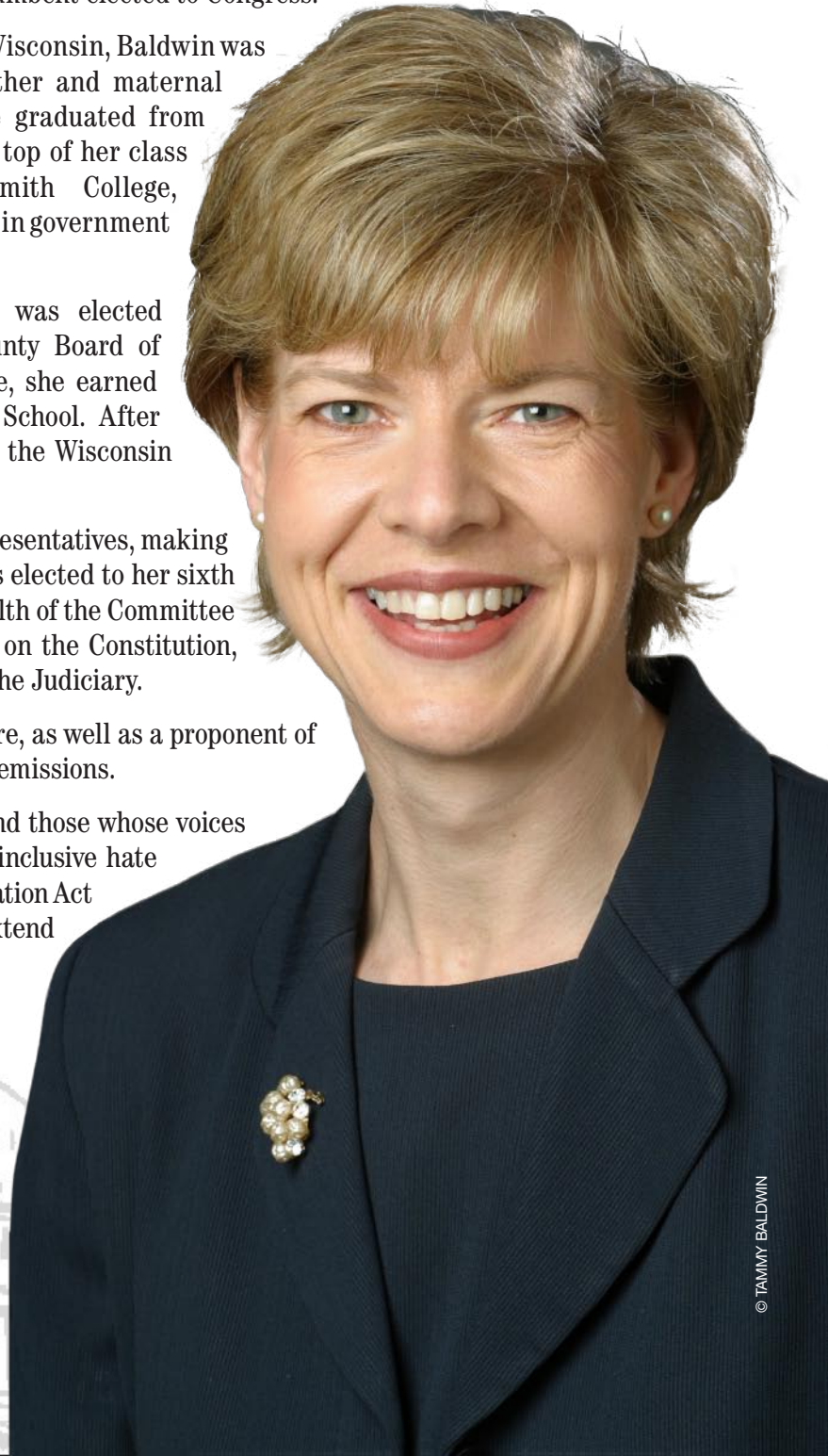
In 1986, Baldwin was elected to the Duane County Board of Supervisors, her first public office. During this time, she earned her degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School. After practicing law from 1989 to 1992, she won a seat in the Wisconsin State Assembly.

In 1998, Baldwin was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, making her the first congresswoman from Wisconsin. She was elected to her sixth term in 2008. She serves on the Subcommittee on Health of the Committee of Energy and Commerce and on the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties of the Committee of the Judiciary.

Baldwin is a leading advocate for universal health care, as well as a proponent of renewable fuel sources and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

A self-proclaimed “forceful supporter of civil rights and those whose voices are not heard,” Baldwin spearheaded efforts to pass inclusive hate crimes legislation and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). She has authored legislation that would extend benefits for same-sex partners to federal employees.

Baldwin lives with her partner, Lauren Azar.



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JOHN CAGE

b. September 5, 1912

d. August 12, 1992

A fascination with Taoism and Zen Buddhism led John Cage to chance music. Based on the “I Ching”—the Zen book of changes—and the flip of a coin, he created compositions solely by chance.

“I can’t understand why people are frightened of new ideas. I’m frightened of the old ones.”

Twentieth century composer John Cage pushed the boundaries of traditional music, experimenting with sound, environment and audience perception. His avant-garde work influenced music, painting, dance, performance art and poetry.

Cage was born in Los Angeles. He was playing piano on the radio regularly by the time he was 12. The son of an inventor, Cage developed a reputation for innovation and originality—qualities that became the hallmarks of his career.

In 1930, after two years at Pomona College, Cage left for a less traditional education in Europe. Settling in Paris, he spent 18 months painting, writing poetry and composing music, before returning to California to focus on music.

From 1931 to 1936, Cage’s composition teachers included Adolph Weiss, Henry Cowell and Arnold Schoenberg. Schoenberg declared the young man “not a composer, but an inventor of genius.”

In 1937, Cage worked as a dance accompanist in Seattle, where he met dancer and choreographer Merce Cunningham. The two became professional and life partners for the next 50 years.

In 1938, Cage began to experiment. He composed pieces for the prepared piano—a piano he created with objects placed on and between the strings to alter sound. He also used record players and phonographs as instruments.

In the 1940’s, Cage continued to pursue unorthodox techniques. His fascination with Taoism and Zen Buddhism led him to chance music. Based on the “I Ching”—the Zen book of changes—and the flip of a coin, Cage created compositions solely by chance.

In 1948, Cage joined the Black Mountain College faculty and began collaborating with David Tudor and Robert Rauschenberg, among others. He composed his most controversial piece “4’33,” three scores of silence over 4 minutes and 33 seconds. The intended “music” of the piece is the unintentional sound created by the audience and the environment.

Cage continued to compose and collaborate with other artists. In his later years, he focused on electronic music, often using radios and “Happenings,” as he called them—pieces that are mostly unwritten, except for timed intervals in which a note, a sound or silence is scheduled.

John Cage was also a writer, philosopher, visual and performance artist, and cofounder of the New York Mycological Society for the study, collection and appreciation of mushrooms and fungi.

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RUTH ELLIS

b. July 23, 1899

d. October 5, 2000

Ruth Ellis lived to be 101. She is credited with being the oldest known lesbian and GLBT civil rights activist.

*“I never expected I’d be 100 years old.
It didn’t even come to my mind.”*

Ruth Ellis, who lived to be 101, was credited with being the oldest known lesbian and GLBT civil rights activist.

Ellis was born in Springfield, Illinois, at the end of the 19th century—the youngest of four children and the only girl. Her parents were born in Tennessee during the last years of slavery. Ellis’s father was the first African-American mail carrier in Springfield.

Ellis attended Springfield High School at a time when very few African-Americans enrolled in secondary education. She was aware of her sexual orientation by the time she was 16. Ellis remembered her high school gym teacher as her first female attraction.

In the early 1920’s, Ellis met Ceciline “Babe” Franklin. They became friends and lovers for more than 35 years.

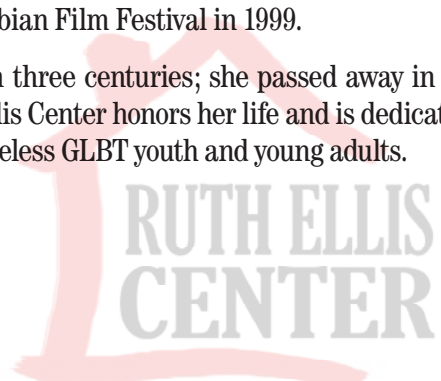
When Ellis moved to Detroit in the 1930’s, Babe joined her. The couple bought a house and Ellis started a printing business. She was the first woman in Michigan to own and operate a printing company.

Their house became the local hangout for African-American gays and lesbians. Known as the “gay spot,” Ellis opened her home for parties and dances, and never turned down a gay or lesbian friend who needed a place to stay.

In the latter part of her life, Ellis became a well-known figure in the GLBT community, first locally, then nationally. She attended events and programs across the country, often as a speaker or special guest. She enjoyed dancing and socializing, even in her old age.

In 1999, Ellis’s life was made the subject of the documentary “Living With Pride: Ruth C. Ellis @ 100,” directed by Yvonne Welbon. The film was screened at film festivals worldwide, and won the Audience Award for Best Documentary at the San Francisco International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival in 1999.

Ellis lived in three centuries; she passed away in 2000. The Ruth Ellis Center honors her life and is dedicated to serving homeless GLBT youth and young adults.



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RAINER FASSBINDER

b. May 31, 1945

d. June 10, 1982

"I'd like to be for cinema what Shakespeare was for theatre, Marx for politics and Freud for psychology: someone after whom nothing is as it used to be."

Actor, director and screenwriter Rainer Fassbinder made over 40 films in his 15-year career. He is among the most important figures in New German Cinema.

Born in the small Bavarian town of Bad Wörishofen, Fassbinder was raised by his mother. Her long hours at work left Fassbinder to occupy himself, which he did by going to the cinema. "The cinema was the family life I never had at home," he said.

Leaving school before taking his final exams, Fassbinder immersed himself in film. He made his first short films at age 20, persuading an older lover to finance and act in them.

In 1967, Fassbinder joined a radical theater troupe in Munich. He directed and acted in productions with Peer Raben, Kurt Raab, Hanna Schygulla and Irm Hermann, who became regulars in Fassbinder productions. The next year, Fassbinder directed "Katzelmacher," his first play.

Fassbinder's most prolific years as a director, writer and actor in film, theater, television and radio began in 1969. On average, he released one film every hundred days.

A major theme of his work focuses on the individual's tragic longing for love. Among his popular films are "Love Is Colder Than Death" (1969), "Ali: Fear Eats the Soul" (1973), and "I Only Want You to Love Me" (1976). Often considered his best work, "Berlin Alexanderplatz" (1980) was a 15-hour television drama.

Several Fassbinder films deal with homosexuality, a taboo subject for major directors of the time. Films such as "Querelle" (1982) and "The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant" (1971), focus on gays and lesbians as societal outsiders.

Fassbinder's radical behavior, drug and alcohol addiction, frequent public appearances in the New York City leather scene, and violent relationships with lovers, both male and female, were followed in tabloids and gossip columns.

At age 37, Fassbinder died from an overdose of drugs and alcohol. His death marked the end of New German Cinema.

Rainer Fassbinder was a prolific director, writer and actor in film, theater, television and radio. Beginning in 1969, he released an average of one film every hundred days.



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MICHEL FOUCAULT

b. October 15, 1926

d. June 25, 1984

“It’s not enough to affirm that we are gay, but we must also create a gay life.”

Michel Foucault was a French philosopher, sociologist and educator who had a profound impact on academic thought. Foucault is best known for his critical studies of psychiatry, the prison system and human sexuality.

Foucault was born Paul-Michel Foucault in Poitiers, France, the son of a prominent surgeon. He graduated from the prestigious École Normale Supérieure, where he earned degrees in psychology and philosophy. Studying philosophy with the distinguished Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Foucault was recognized as a brilliant emerging academic.

In 1960, Foucault became head of the philosophy department at the University of Clermont-Ferrand, where he wrote his groundbreaking book, “Madness and Civilization” (1961). Foucault earned his doctorate and met philosophy student Daniel Defert, who became his lover for 20 years.

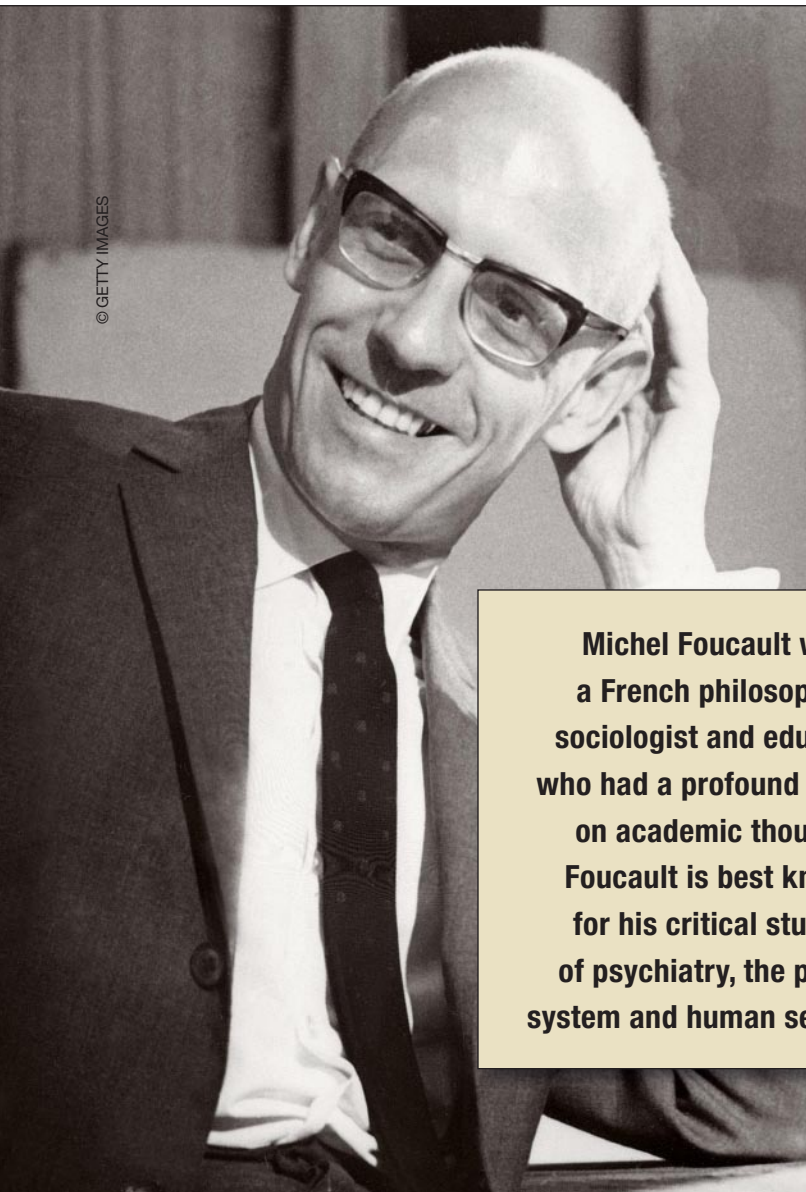
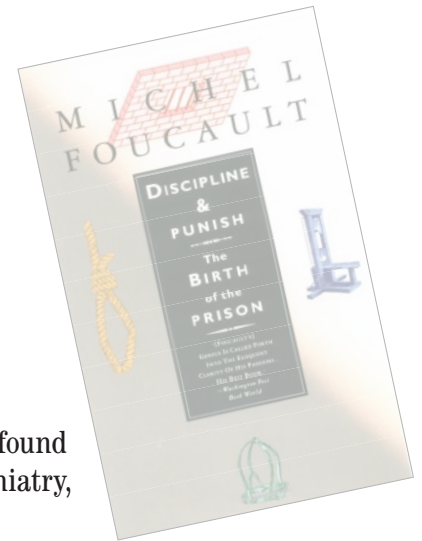
When Defert was deployed for military service in Tunisia, Foucault followed, and in 1965, took a teaching position at the University of Tunis. Foucault’s second major work “The Order of Things” (1966) was a best seller in France and established him as an esteemed intellectual.

In 1970, Foucault was elected Professor of the History of Systems of Thought at the Collège de France, the nation’s preeminent academic institution. He published “Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison” (1975), his most influential book. Foucault founded the Prisoner Information Group to give inmates a forum to share their concerns.

In the mid-1970’s, Foucault taught at the University of California, Berkeley. He became enamored with San Francisco and its liberated gay sexuality—especially the bathhouses. “I think that it is politically important that sexuality be able to function ... as in the bathhouses,” he wrote. “You cease to be imprisoned in your own face, your own past, in your own identity.”

Foucault worked on “The History of Sexuality,” a planned six-volume project. He completed three volumes, which were published shortly before his death. The first volume had a powerful influence on gay consciousness.

In 1984, Foucault died of complications from AIDS at age 58, leaving a legacy of important works affecting contemporary issues of GLBT identity.



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Michel Foucault was a French philosopher, sociologist and educator who had a profound impact on academic thought. Foucault is best known for his critical studies of psychiatry, the prison system and human sexuality.

HARRY HAY

b. April 7, 1912

d. October 24, 2002

In 1950, Harry Hay founded the Mattachine Society, the first American gay organization.

“In order to earn for ourselves any place in the sun, we must work collectively ... for the first-class citizenship of minorities everywhere.”

In 1950, Harry Hay founded the Mattachine Society, an underground network for homosexuals. It was the first American gay organization.

Hay was born to American parents in England. His mother nurtured his creative side, teaching him piano and dance. Hay's father physically abused his “sissified” son.

In 1919, the family moved to Los Angeles. As Hay grew up, he became outraged by intolerance toward gays—especially from police who regularly entrapped, arrested and blackmailed homosexuals.

In the 1930's, Hay began working in Hollywood as an extra and a ghostwriter. He performed on stage with Will Geer, who became his lover and introduced him to the Communist Party.

Hay confided his homosexuality to fellow Party members, who encouraged him to get married. In 1938, Hay married Anita Platky, another Communist Party member. They adopted two daughters. In 1951, when Hay felt compelled to go public about his involvement with the Mattachine Society, the couple divorced.

Due to pervasive homophobia, Hay and his Mattachine Society colleagues took an oath of anonymity not to reveal member names. In 1953, the Mattachine Society rejected Hay for his communist beliefs. The Communist Party later expelled him as a “security risk.”

Following his Mattachine Society ouster, Hay withdrew from organized activism for more than a decade. In 1963, Hay met John Burnside, an inventor and activist. They became partners for nearly 40 years.

In 1966, Hay and Burnside helped to establish the North American Conference of Homophile Organizations. After the Stonewall riots, the couple helped to organize a Gay Liberation Front chapter in Los Angeles. Hay was elected its first chairman.

In the 1970's, Hay and Burnside founded the Radical Faeries, a spiritual movement based on the concept of “gay consciousness.” Hay believed that “variant thinking” was the gay community's unique contribution to society.

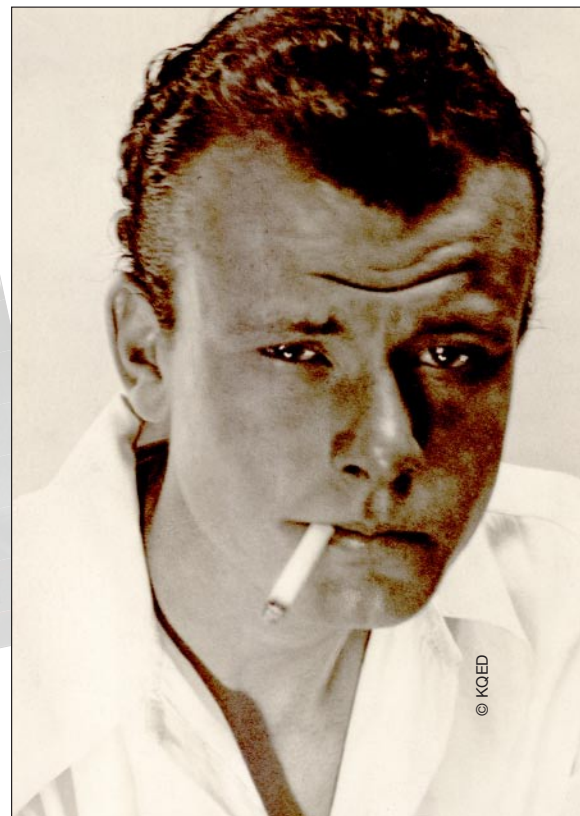
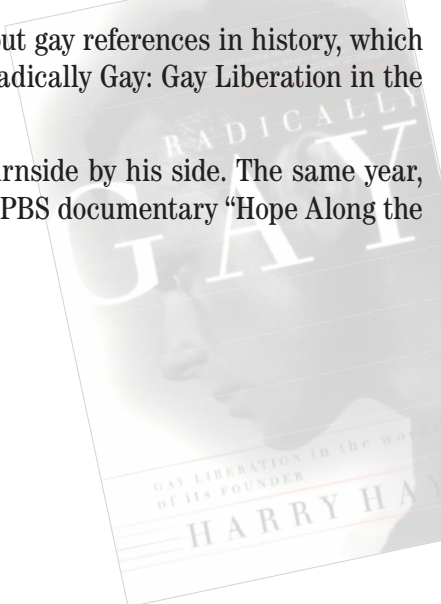
Hay researched and wrote extensively about gay references in history, which are included in his collection of essays “Radically Gay: Gay Liberation in the Words of its Founder” (1996).

Harry Hay died in 2002 at age 90 with Burnside by his side. The same year, Hay was the subject of the award-winning PBS documentary “Hope Along the Wind: The Life of Harry Hay.”

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MAGNUS HIRSCHFELD

b. May 14, 1868

d. May 14, 1935

“Soon the day will come when science will win victory over error, justice a victory over injustice, and human love a victory over human hatred and ignorance.”

Pioneering sexologist Magnus Hirschfeld devoted his life to the scientific validation and political liberation of homosexuals. He helped lay the groundwork for the modern GLBT civil rights movement.

Born in 1868 in Kolberg, Germany (now Kolbrzeg, Poland), to a highly renowned physician, Hirschfeld followed his father into medicine. Practicing in Berlin, he soon turned his efforts to the study of human sexuality.

In 1896, Hirschfeld, under a pseudonym, distributed a pamphlet titled “Sappho and Socrates.” This became the basis for his later research, which includes the 23-volume Yearbook for the Sexual Intermediates, the first periodical dedicated to homosexual studies.

The next year, Hirschfeld founded the Scientific Humanitarian Committee to enlighten the public about homosexuality and to encourage homosexuals to fight for their liberation. The Scientific Humanitarian Committee aimed to repeal Paragraph 175, the law criminalizing homosexuality.

In his tireless—and lengthy—campaign to raise awareness and repeal Paragraph 175, Hirschfeld became a well-known public figure and earned the moniker “The Einstein of Sex.” With over 5,000 signatures of prominent Germans collected, the bill eventually made progress in the Reichstag.

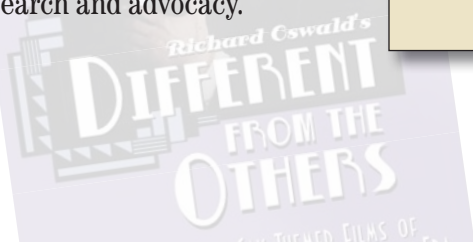
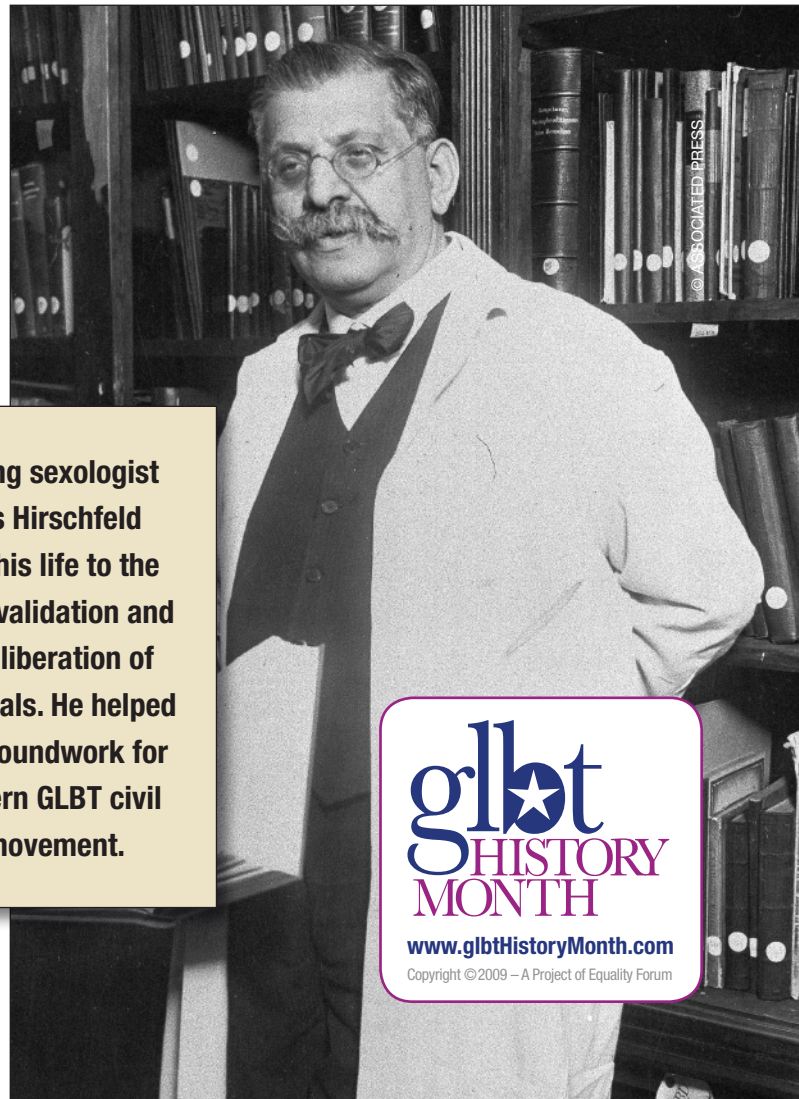
In 1919, Hirschfeld founded the Institute for Sexual Research, which housed a vast library on sexuality and the Museum of Sex, provided educational services and resources, and offered medical consultations. The same year, he produced the film “Different From the Others,” likely the first gay film.

In 1921, Hirschfeld organized the First Congress for Sexual Reform, during which the World League for Sexual Reform (WLSR) was formed. Touring internationally, he promoted the WLSR and its goals. At its peak, the WLSR boasted 130,000 members worldwide.

With the rise of the Nazi Party, Hirschfeld came under attack both politically and personally. On May 6, 1933, while Hirschfeld was abroad, a mob of students and storm troopers raided the Institute for Sexual Research. They burned books, journals and other materials in a bonfire to cleanse the city of “un-German” materials.

Exiled, Hirschfeld settled in Nice, France, and died two years later. He left a legacy of innovative research and advocacy.

Pioneering sexologist Magnus Hirschfeld devoted his life to the scientific validation and political liberation of homosexuals. He helped lay the groundwork for the modern GLBT civil rights movement.



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ZORA NEALE HURSTON

b. January 7, 1891

d. January 28, 1960

“Mama exhorted her children at every opportunity to ‘jump at de sun.’ We might not land on the sun, but at least we would get off the ground.”

American author and folklorist Zora Neale Hurston was a principal figure in the Harlem Renaissance. She is the author of “Their Eyes Were Watching God,” a book heralded as “one of the most poetic works of fiction by a black writer in the first half of the 20th century, and one of the most revealing treatments in modern literature of a woman’s quest for satisfying life.”

Hurston grew up in Eatonville, Florida, the first all-black town to be incorporated in the United States, and a source of much of her writing. Her mother was a schoolteacher and her father was a Baptist preacher, farmer and mayor.

When her mother died in 1904, Hurston was sent to Jacksonville, Florida. Working as a maid for a traveling theatrical company, she ended up in Baltimore and attended high school by claiming to be a decade younger. She adopted 1901 as her birth year.

Hurston attended Howard University and, in 1928, became the first African-American woman to graduate from Barnard College. She went on to do graduate work in anthropology at Columbia University.

During her time in New York, Hurston was a mainstay of the Harlem Renaissance, an African-American cultural movement. Hurston befriended and collaborated with notable figures such as poet Langston Hughes and entertainers Ethel Waters and Bessie Smith. In 1935, she published “Mules and Men,” an anthology of African-American folklore.

Hurston traveled to Haiti and Jamaica for research on a Guggenheim Fellowship. During her travels, she penned what would later become her masterpiece: “Their Eyes Were Watching God” (1937). She wrote two more novels and an autobiography, “Dust Tracks on a Road” (1942).

Though she received awards for her work, Hurston never reaped financial benefit.

In her later years, Hurston wrote for newspapers. After medical and financial complications, she moved into a welfare home in Fort Pierce, Florida, where she died. She was buried in an anonymous grave.

In 1973, writer Alice Walker found an unmarked headstone in Fort Pierce and marked it as Zora Neale Hurston’s. Walker published an article that launched a revival of Hurston’s work. In 2005, Oprah Winfrey produced a film version of “Their Eyes Were Watching God,” starring Halle Berry.

Zora Neale Hurston
is the author of “Their Eyes Were Watching God,” a book heralded as “one of the most poetic works of fiction by a black writer in the first half of the 20th century.”

Their Eyes Were Watching God



With a Foreword by Edwidge Danticat

Zora Neale Hurston

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JASPER JOHNS

b. May 15, 1930

Jasper Johns is among the leading artists of the 20th century. His works are on display in major museums worldwide.

“To be an artist you have to give up everything, including the desire to be a good artist.”

Jasper Johns is one of America's most successful and influential contemporary artists. His paintings and prints, often incorporating objects and symbols from popular culture, inspired a new generation of artists and laid the groundwork for the Pop Art movement.

Johns was born in Allendale, South Carolina. “In the place where I was a child, there were no artists and no art,” says Johns. The son of divorced parents, Johns grew up being passed among relatives. It was such an unhappy childhood, Johns says, he was “dying” to get away from it.

In 1949, the aspiring artist moved to New York City. In New York, he explored the art scene and developed a circle of creative contemporaries, including composer John Cage, dancer Merce Cunningham and painter Robert Rauschenberg, with whom he developed a romantic and professional relationship.

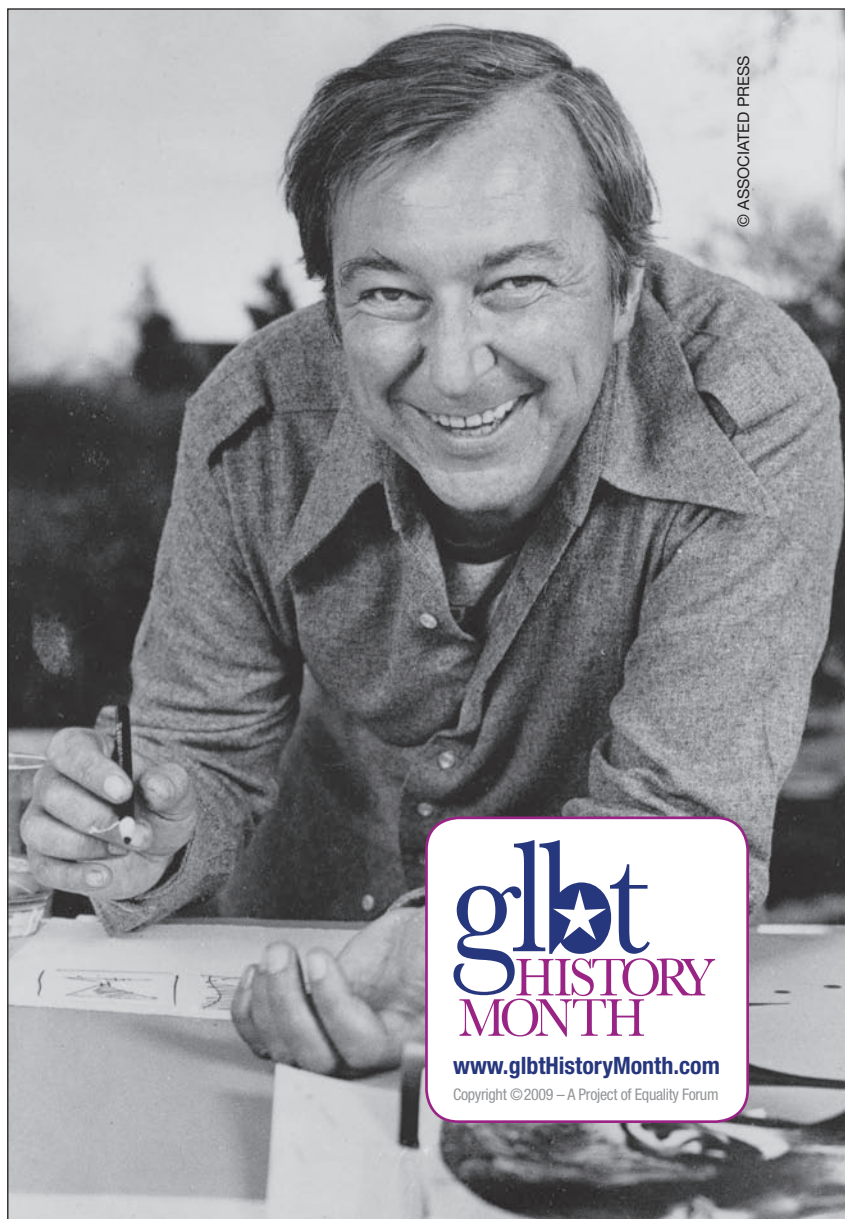
In 1958, gallery owner Leo Castelli, who discovered Johns, was so impressed with the young artist that he offered him a solo show. At that exhibition, the Museum of Modern Art purchased three pieces, launching Johns as a major influence in contemporary art.

“Flag” (1954-1955) is Johns's best-known painting and considered by many his most important work. His use of classical iconography—flags, maps, targets, letters and numbers—became the hallmark of his early works.

Johns is widely recognized for the distinctive surface treatments of his paintings. With the use of media such as encaustic (paint mixed with melted wax) and plaster relief, his innovative techniques and experimentation made Johns a breakthrough artist.

In 1998, Johns's “White Flag” was sold to the Metropolitan Museum of Art for more than \$20 million. In 2006, his “False Start” sold for \$80 million—the highest price ever paid for a painting by a living artist.

Johns is among the leading artists of the 20th century, with works in major museums worldwide.



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CHERRY JONES

b. November 21, 1956

"I was never in the closet. From the moment I stepped onto the theatrical stage, I was always out. It was never an issue."

Cherry Jones is a theater, film and television actress best known for her role as president of the United States on the FOX series "24." A Broadway veteran, Jones is considered one of America's foremost stage actresses. She has received two Tony Awards.

Jones grew up in the small town of Paris, Tennessee. Her mother taught high school and her father owned a flower shop. "I came from a very loving family where I knew I had their unconditional love no matter what," Jones says.

With her sights set on acting, Jones enrolled at the prestigious Carnegie Mellon School of Drama, where in 1978, she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. In 1980, Jones became a founding member of the American Repertory Theatre in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where she played a wide range of roles.

In the mid-1980's, Jones moved to New York and performed in Broadway productions including "Angels in America," "The Night of the Iguana" and "A Moon for the Misbegotten." In 1995, she received a Tony Award for her role in "The Heiress" and made headlines by being the first award winner to publicly thank her same-sex partner.

The winner of two Tony Awards, Broadway veteran Cherry Jones is considered one of America's foremost stage actresses.

In 1998, Jones narrated a documentary film about the history of the gay rights movement, "Out of the Past."

On the silver screen, Jones appeared in "The Horse Whisperer" (1998), "Cradle Will Rock" (1999), "Erin Brockovich" (2000) and "The Perfect Storm" (2000), among others.

In 2001, Jones costarred with Brooke Shields in the Lifetime Television movie "What Makes a Family," based on the true story of a lesbian couple and a custody battle. "I'm more proud of that than anything I've ever done. There's so much social worth to that film," Jones says.

Jones is an outspoken advocate of gay rights. In 2004, she received GLAAD's Vito Russo Media Award for her contribution toward eliminating homophobia.

In 2005, Jones was honored with a second Tony Award for her portrayal of Sister Aloysius in "Doubt." After receiving the award, Jones thanked and kissed her partner, actress Sarah Paulson.

Jones joined the cast of "24" in 2009 as President Allison Taylor and will reprise her role in the 2010 season.

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KATE KENDELL

b. April 15, 1960

“The only way to win full equality is to engage in the hard work of making our lives real to everyone we know.”

Kate Kendell is a civil rights attorney and executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR).

Kendell was raised a Mormon in Utah. She learned about the intersection of faith and politics at an early age.

In 1968, Kendell graduated from the University of Utah College of Law. She worked as a corporate attorney, until she pursued her passion: civil rights advocacy.

In 1992, Kendell became the first staff attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union of Utah, where she litigated high-profile cases. Kendell focused on LGBT, reproductive, and prisoners' rights, and the separation of church and state.

In 1994, Kendell was hired as NCLR's legal director. She was promoted to executive director in 1996. Under Kendell's leadership, NCLR's impact has grown exponentially.

Each year, through litigation, public policy advocacy and public education, NCLR helps more than 5,000 LGBT people and their families nationwide. NCLR was one of the organizations that argued before the California Supreme Court for the overturn of Proposition 8.

On May 26, 2009, when the California Supreme Court upheld Proposition 8, Kendell responded, “Today, the California Supreme Court diminished its legacy as a champion of equality. No minority group should have to defend its right to equality at the ballot, and the Court should not have permitted such a travesty of justice to stand.”

Kendell is a frequent national spokeswoman for LGBT rights. Her commentaries have appeared in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and The Advocate, and on NPR and CNN, among other media outlets.

Kendell lives with her partner, Sandy Holmes, and their two children.

Kate Kendell is a national spokeswoman for LGBT rights. Her commentaries have appeared in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and The Advocate, and on NPR, CNN and other media outlets.

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ALFRED KINSEY

b. June 23, 1894

d. August 25, 1956

Known as the father of sexology, Alfred Kinsey conducted groundbreaking and controversial research on human sexuality that profoundly influenced social and cultural values.

“The heterosexuality or homosexuality of many individuals is not an all-or-none proposition.”

Alfred Kinsey is known as the father of sexology. His groundbreaking and controversial research on human sexuality profoundly influenced social and cultural values.

Kinsey grew up in Hoboken, New Jersey, the oldest of three children in a devoutly religious home. His father was a strict disciplinarian and insisted the family attend church every Sunday.

In 1916, Kinsey graduated magna cum laude from Bowdoin College with degrees in biology and psychology. In 1919, he earned his doctorate in biology from Harvard University.

In 1920, Indiana University hired Kinsey as an assistant professor of zoology. The following year, Kinsey married Clara McMillen. The couple had four children.

Kinsey's first 20 years of research focused on the study of gall wasps. His research methodology, which made an important contribution to entomology, carried over into his later research on human sexual behavior.

In 1940, as part of a marriage course he was teaching, Kinsey began conducting research on sexual behavior. Thereafter, Kinsey worked exclusively on his research. He and his staff conducted over 18,000 interviews. Kinsey published “Sexual Behavior in the Human Male” (1948), followed by “Sexual Behavior in the Human Female” (1953).

The two books, known as the “Kinsey Reports,” became best sellers and sparked a firestorm of controversy. Kinsey became an overnight celebrity, with articles about him in Time, Life, Look and McCall's. Kinsey's work planted the seed for the sexual revolution of the 1960's.

Kinsey's findings on homosexuality were among the most widely discussed. His studies found that 37% of American men had at least one homosexual experience. Kinsey devised a scale measuring sexual orientation, now known as the Kinsey Scale. The scale ranges from 0 to 6, with 6 designating someone exclusively homosexual, and 0 signifying someone exclusively heterosexual.

Kinsey had an intimate relationship with Clyde Martin, one of his research assistants. Martin also had a sexual relationship with Kinsey's wife.

In 1947, Kinsey founded the Institute for Research in Sex, Gender and Reproduction at Indiana University—now the Kinsey Institute—one of the leading academic centers on human sexuality.

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k.d. lang

b. November 2, 1961



"I'm proud that I was one of the first ones out, singing loud and proud."

k.d. lang is a singer/songwriter known for her stunning voice, androgynous look and brilliant performances. She has been a recording artist for over 25 years, winning four Grammy Awards and countless accolades from critics and audiences worldwide.

Born Kathryn Dawn Lang, she was raised in Consort, Alberta, on the Canadian prairie. After winning a childhood singing competition, Lang knew she was destined for a career as a vocalist. Starting in the country music genre, she earned a Juno Award (Canada's equivalent to the Grammy) for Most Promising Female Vocalist in 1985.

"Angel with a Lariat," her first U.S. album, received critical acclaim. Lang's duet with Roy Orbison on his 60's hit, "Crying," turned her into a bonafide star. In 1989, the pair received a Grammy for Best Country Collaboration

"Absolute Torch and Twang" (1989), another country album, won Lang her second Grammy. "Ingénue" (1992), a collection of pop contemporary vocals, was Lang's most successful. The album went platinum, earning her a third Grammy and launching the hit single "Constant Craving."

A recording artist for over 25 years, k.d. lang has earned four Grammy Awards and received countless accolades from critics and audiences worldwide.

After touring with veteran crooner Tony Bennett in 2001, the duo collaborated on "A Wonderful

World" (2002), a tribute to the music of Louis Armstrong. The album was honored with a Grammy for Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album.

Bennett described Lang as "a natural in the tradition of Bing Crosby—the best singer since Judy Garland."

Lang has contributed music to a number of motion pictures, including Gus Van Sant's "Even Cowgirls Get the Blues," Clint Eastwood's "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil," and the James Bond film "Tomorrow Never Dies."

In 1992, Lang came out in an interview with The Advocate. She has actively championed GLBT civil rights causes and helps raise funds for HIV/AIDS care and research.

In 2008, k.d. lang received a star on Canada's Walk of Fame.



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RACHEL MADDOW

b. July 9, 1965

"I came out when I was 17. That's not an issue for me, it's not a decision for me. It's not something I've ever thought about my whole adult life."



Rachel Maddow is a television host, radio personality and political commentator. She is the first out lesbian to anchor a prime-time show.

Maddow grew up in Castro Valley, California, a San Francisco suburb. She describes herself in high school as "a cross between the jock and the antisocial girl."

She earned a degree in public policy from Stanford University. The first openly gay American to receive a

Rhodes Scholarship, Maddow attended the University of Oxford, where she earned a doctorate in political science.

Maddow landed her first radio hosting job after winning a contest for a new on-air personality. In 2004, after hosting her second radio show, Maddow joined the newly established Air America as a co-host of "Unfiltered."

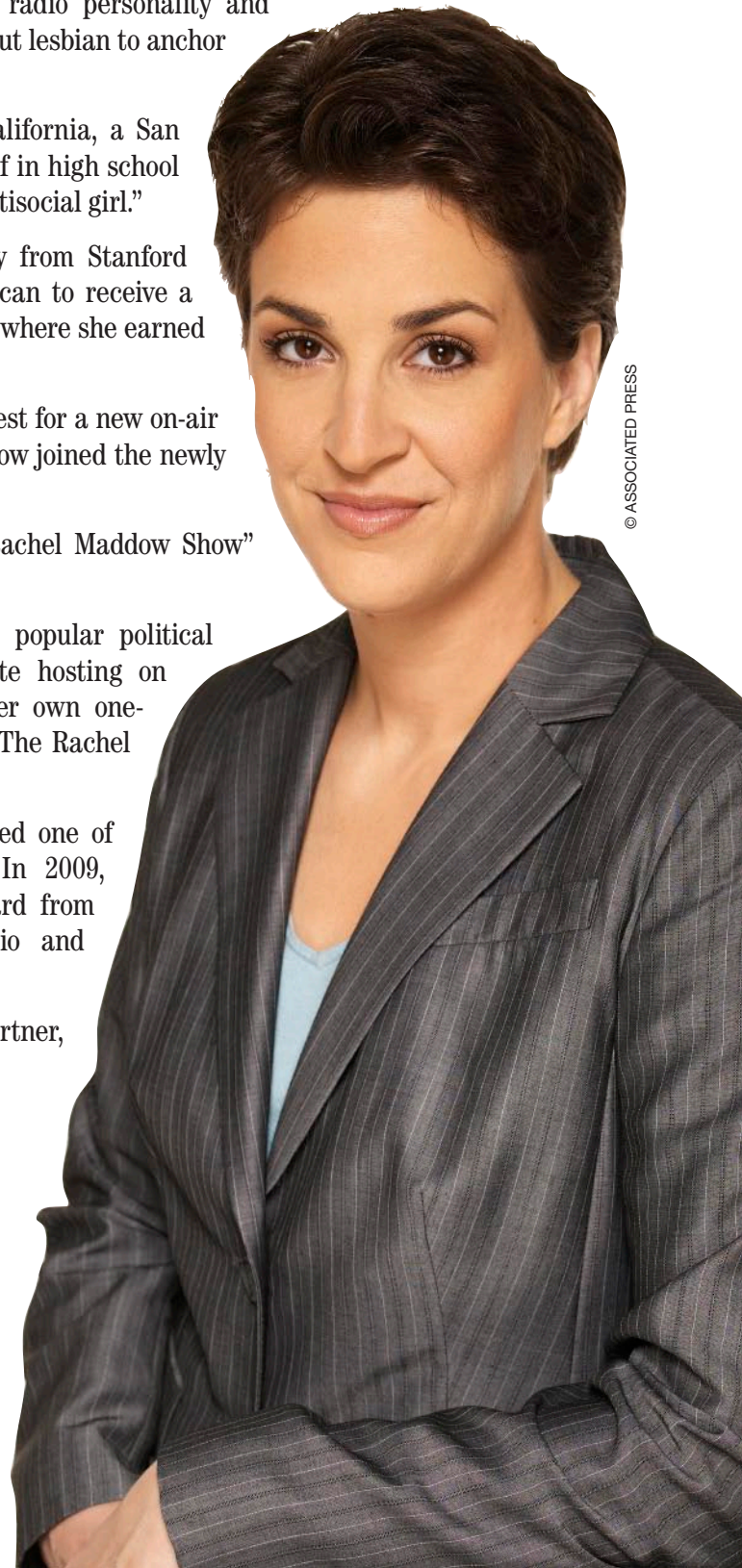
In 2005, Air America offered Maddow her own show. "The Rachel Maddow Show" is broadcast on Air America and XM Satellite Radio.

During the 2008 presidential campaign, Maddow became a popular political commentator on CNN and MSNBC. In 2008, after substitute hosting on "Countdown with Keith Olbermann," Maddow was offered her own one-hour prime-time program, "The Rachel Maddow Show," on MSNBC.

A television host, radio personality and political commentator, Rachel Maddow is the first out lesbian to anchor a prime-time show.

In 2008, Maddow was named one of Out magazine's Out 100. In 2009, she received a Gracie Award from American Women in Radio and Television.

Maddow lives with her partner, artist Susan Mikula.



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DEIRDRE MCCLOSKEY

b. September 11, 1942

Deirdre McCloskey wrote “Crossing, A Memoir” (1999), her story of crossing from a 52-year-old man to a 55-year-old woman. The New York Times named the memoir a “Notable Book of the Year.”

“We make ourselves, which is our freedom as human beings.”

Deirdre McCloskey is an internationally renowned economist and economic historian. She is the author of a memoir recounting her transition from male to female.

McCloskey was born Donald, the son of a Harvard professor and a poet. She remembers wanting to be female as early as 11 years old. She writes, “As Donald aged 13 or 14 waited for sleep in his bed, he would fantasize about two things. Please, God, please ... Tomorrow when I wake up: I won’t stutter ... And I’ll be a girl.”

Donald McCloskey was co-captain of his high school football team. In 1964, he earned a degree in economics from Harvard. The next year, he married. He and his wife were together for 30 years and have two children.

In 1970, McCloskey received a Ph.D. in economics from Harvard. He won the prestigious David A. Wells Prize for best dissertation. He was hired by the University of Chicago, where he worked as a professor of economics and history. In 1980, McCloskey accepted a professorship at the University of Iowa and served as the chair of the Economics Department from 1984 to 1999.

After cross-dressing privately, and then more publicly, for nearly four decades, McCloskey began transitioning in 1995. For over two years, “Dee”—as McCloskey called herself during the transition—underwent numerous operations, including sexual reassignment surgery, emerging finally as Deirdre.

McCloskey wrote “Crossing, A Memoir” (1999), her story of crossing from a 52-year-old man to a 55-year-old woman. The New York Times named the memoir a “Notable Book of the Year.”

McCloskey has written 14 books and published more than 350 articles on economic theory and history, philosophy, rhetoric, feminism, ethics, and law. Since 2000, she has been a Distinguished Professor of Economics, History, English and Communications at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She holds professorships at Academia Vitae in the Netherlands and at the University of the Free State in South Africa.



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PAUL MONETTE

b. October 16, 1945

d. February 10, 1995

Monette's memoir "Becoming a Man: Half a Life Story" explores his struggle for identity as a gay man in a homophobic culture, finding love and carving out a life as a committed same-sex partner.

"No one will find the way out of hate and violence unless we do. Go without hate, but not without rage. Heal the world."

Paul Monette is an award-winning writer, best known for his novels and memoirs on same-sex relationships and HIV/AIDS.

Monette was born in Lawrence, Massachusetts. In 1967, he graduated from Yale University and moved to Boston. He came out in his late 20's, and met Roger Horwitz, his partner for over 20 years. While working as a teacher, Monette focused on his career as a poet.

In 1977, Monette and Horwitz moved to West Hollywood. Monette wrote screenplays and novelizations of films, while writing his own novels and poetry. He wrote "Taking Care of Mrs. Carroll" (1978) and "The Long Shot" (1981), both of which received critical acclaim.

In 1988, Monette's "Borrowed Time: An AIDS Memoir" chronicled the last months of Horwitz's life, from his diagnosis to his death from AIDS. The following year, Monette wrote "Love Alone: Eighteen Elegies for Rog," which dealt with the loss of his partner to AIDS. The success and impact of these books launched him as a national AIDS spokesman.

Monette's memoir, "Becoming a Man: Half a Life Story," explores his struggle for identity as a gay man in a homophobic culture, finding love and carving out a life as a committed same-sex partner. The book earned him the 1992 National Book Award.

The award-winning film "Paul Monette: On the Brink of Summer's End" (1996) documents the last years of Monette's life.

In 1995, he founded the Monette-Horwitz Trust, ensuring future activism by funding individuals and organizations dedicated to the eradication of homophobia. Monette died later that year from AIDS-related illness, leaving behind his partner of five years, Winston Wilde.



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PAULI MURRAY

b. November 20, 1910

d. July 1, 1985

Her book “States’ Laws on Race and Color” (1951) was described by Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall as the bible for civil rights lawyers.

“As an American, I inherit the magnificent tradition of an endless march toward freedom and toward the dignity of all mankind.”

The Reverend Dr. Pauli Murray was a lifelong civil rights attorney and activist against racial and sexual discrimination. She was the first African-American female Episcopal priest.

Born in Baltimore, Maryland, Murray lost her mother when she was 3. She was sent to Durham, North Carolina to live with her maternal grandparents and aunts. Raised by older relatives, Murray grew up with a strong sense of independence and self-reliance.

In 1933, Murray graduated from Hunter College and taught for the WPA Worker’s Education Program. Wishing to pursue legal studies, she applied to the University of North Carolina, but was rejected on the basis of race. This discrimination impelled Murray to pursue a Bachelor of Law degree at Howard University and become active in the civil rights movement. She joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and organized sit-ins to end segregation at restaurants in Washington, D.C. Murray cofounded the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), along with Bayard Rustin, who was openly gay.

Denied admission to Harvard Law School due to her gender, Murray earned her master’s degree at the University of California, where she focused on equal rights for women. She became the first African-American female deputy attorney general of California.

Murray returned to New York and practiced law privately for five years. Her book “States’ Laws on Race and Color” (1951) was described by Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall as the bible for civil rights lawyers. In 1956, Murray published “Proud Shoes: The Story of an American Family,” a biography of her grandparents’ struggle with racial prejudice.

In the 1960’s, President Kennedy appointed Murray to the Committee on Civil and Political Rights. She worked with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the civil rights movement. Murray spoke out against the marginalized role black women played in movement leadership.

Though Murray never identified as a lesbian, her longest lasting relationships were with women. Refusing to accept her homosexuality due to its association at the time with mental illness, she ultimately self-identified as a heterosexual man.

In 1977, Murray became the first African-American female ordained an Episcopal priest. She died at age 74. Her autobiography “Songs in a Weary Throat: An American Pilgrimage” (1987) was published posthumously.



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JOAN NESTLE

b. May 12, 1940

Joan Nestle is an award-winning author of lesbian fiction and nonfiction. She is the cofounder of the Lesbian Herstory Archives.

“The freedom to be sexually expressive, the freedom to be different, is a freedom for all of us.”

Joan Nestle is an award-winning author of lesbian literature, both fiction and nonfiction. She is the cofounder of the Lesbian Herstory Archives.

Nestle was born and raised in Queens, New York. Her father died before she was born. Nestle credits her mother with instilling in her “belief in a woman’s undeniable right to enjoy sex.”

In 1963, Nestle graduated from Queens College. She became active in the African-American civil rights movement, taking part in the Selma to Montgomery march and helping with voter registration in the Southern states.

After Nestle earned a master’s degree from New York University, she taught at Queens College. In the late 1960’s, she was active in the New York City gay and lesbian bar scene. The bars were run by organized crime and riddled with blackmail and extortion. After the Stonewall riots in 1969, she became a gay activist.

In 1973, Nestle helped launch the Gay Academic Union (GAU) to pursue gay liberation in academics. GAU members began to collect and preserve documents related to lesbian history. From this initiative, she helped found the Lesbian Herstory Archives in 1976.

Originally housed in the pantry of Nestle’s apartment, the Archives moved to its permanent home in Brooklyn. It is the oldest and largest lesbian collection in the world, housing more than 20,000 volumes, 12,000 photographs, and 200 special collections, among other artifacts and memorabilia. Since its inception, Nestle has played a vital role in amassing the collection and promoting it to the community.

In 1978, she began writing lesbian-themed fiction focused on the femme-butch relationship. She has won awards from the Lambda Literary Awards and the American Library Association. Her writings have been influential, and her anthology, “The Persistent Desire: A Femme-Butch Reader” (1992), has become a staple in lesbian studies.

In 2002, Nestle’s life was made the subject of the documentary film “Hands on the Pulse.” She teaches at the University of Melbourne, in Australia, where she lives with her partner, Diane Otto.



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TODD OLDHAM

b. October 22, 1961

In 1989, Todd Oldham launched his first clothing line. Two years later, he was honored with the prestigious Designer Perry Ellis Award for New Fashion Talent.

“The one thing we can really count on is change.”

Best known for his clothing and interior designs, Todd Oldham is the quintessential designer. He is regarded for transforming his youthful aesthetic into affordable style.

Oldham was born in Corpus Christi, Texas. His grandmother taught him to sew at age 9, and at 15, he designed his first dress. After high school, he moved to Dallas, where he found his first job in the alterations department of Polo Ralph Lauren. Borrowing \$100 from his parents, Oldham bought and dyed fabric, and created a small collection, which he sold to Neiman Marcus.

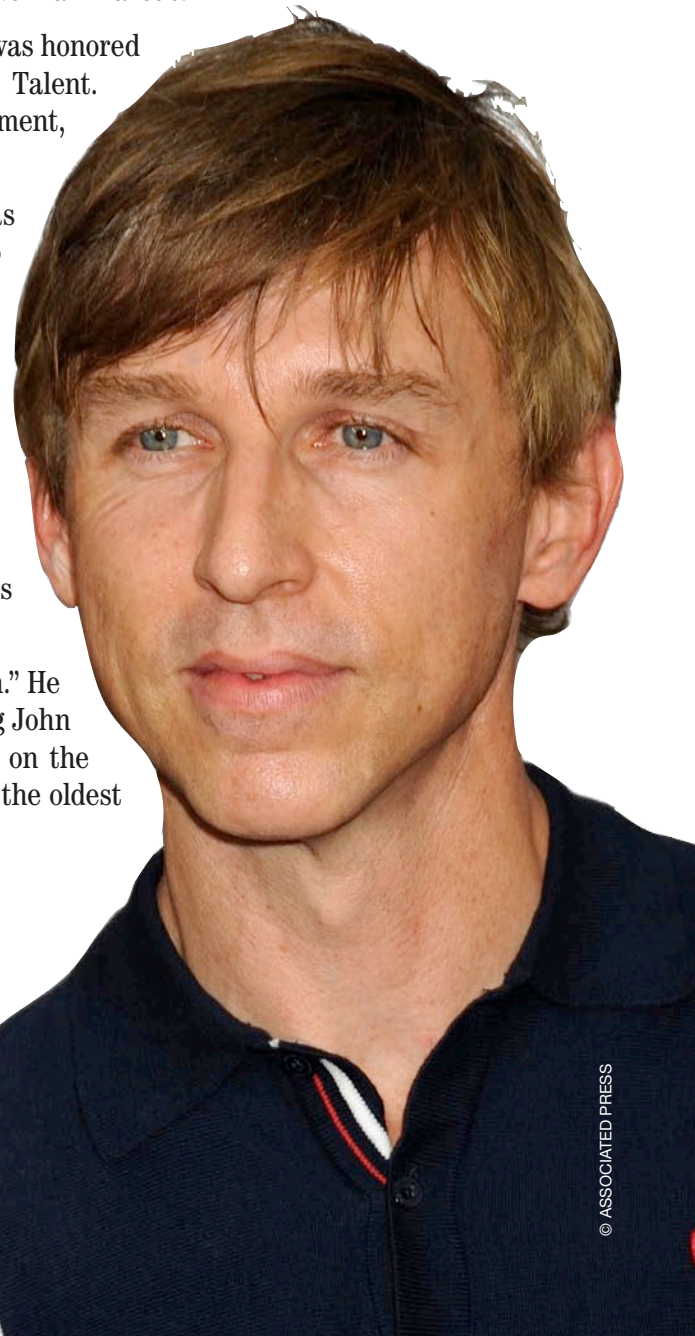
In 1989, Oldham launched his first clothing line. Two years later, he was honored with the prestigious Designer Perry Ellis Award for New Fashion Talent. Oldham's young, vibrant approach soon landed him a regular segment, “Todd Time,” on MTV's “House of Style.”

In 1998, Oldham moved to New York. He served for three years as creative consultant to fashion house Escada while continuing to produce his own line. In 1999, he took a hiatus from couture to found L-7 Designs. This enabled him to branch out from clothing, taking on design in other forms.

Oldham was the architect and interior designer of The Hotel in South Beach. He has created affordable lines of clothing, homeware, and dorm room furniture for Target, and designed furniture and home accessories for La-Z-Boy.

In 2007, Oldham became the creative director for Old Navy. After his first quarter there, sales were up for the first time in years.

Oldham serves as a mentor to the contestants on Bravo's “Top Design.” He is the author of style and design books and books on artists, including John Waters, whose works inspire him. A philanthropist, Oldham serves on the boards of charities and conservation groups, including Bailey House, the oldest housing program in the United States for people with HIV/AIDS.



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SUZE ORMAN

b. June 5, 1951

Suze Orman is the most celebrated personal finance advisor in America and has written six consecutive New York Times best sellers.

“People first, then money, then things.”

Suze Orman is a financial expert, author, motivational speaker and television host. She is the most celebrated personal finance advisor in America and has written six consecutive books on the New York Times best-seller list.

Born and raised in Chicago, Orman had a speech impediment as a child. She was belittled in school and suffered from low self-esteem.

To her surprise, she was accepted to the University of Illinois. She majored in social work after a counselor advised her that it was the easiest course of study. After college, Orman bought a van. Ultimately, she ended up in Berkeley, California.

Orman waited tables for six years before a customer loaned her \$50,000 to open her own restaurant. She invested the money with Merrill Lynch. Less than six months later, she was broke, having been scammed by a stockbroker.

Orman enrolled in a Merrill Lynch account executive training program to earn back her money. After learning that what her broker did was illegal, she sued Merrill Lynch. She won back her money with interest, and repaid the restaurant customer who made her the loan. Soon after, another company hired Orman as vice president of investments.

In 1987, Orman started her own firm, the Suze Orman Financial Group. In 1997, she left to pursue a career as a writer.

The author of seven books, Orman contributes to major publications and has created top-selling computer programs for personal finance and money management. She hosts CNBC's "The Suze Orman Show" and QVC's "Suze Orman's Financial Freedom."

Orman has won two Daytime Emmy Awards and a record five Gracie Awards for outstanding women in radio and television. Time magazine ranked her among the 100 Most Influential People in the World in 2008 and 2009. In 2009, she received GLAAD's Vito Russo Media Award.

Orman lives with her partner, Kathy Travis.



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CHRISTINE QUINN

b. July 25, 1966

“The fact that I was elected ... the first openly gay woman, and then everybody went right back to business, really shows that in New York, we embrace diversity.”

Christine Quinn is the first woman and the first openly gay candidate elected speaker of the New York City Council. She is the city's second most powerful elected official.

Quinn grew up in Glen Cove, New York, a Long Island suburb. In 1988, she graduated from Trinity College, where she earned degrees in urban studies and education.

Her first foray into politics was in 1991, when she managed the New York City Council campaign of Thomas Duane. When Duane won the election, he and fellow candidate Antonio Pagan became the City Council's first openly gay members. Quinn served as Duane's chief of staff for five years.

Before she ran for office, Quinn served as the executive director of the New York City Anti-Violence Project, and was appointed by Mayor Rudy Giuliani as a member of the New York City Police/Community Relations Task Force.

In 1999, Quinn won a seat on the New York City Council. In 2006, she was elected City Council speaker.

Quinn boycotted New York's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade because of the parade's policy banning gays from marching. In 2006, she was unsuccessful in negotiating to wear a gay pride pin.

In 2008, Quinn was named Irish American of the Year by the Irish Echo newspaper. The New York Post has twice named Quinn one of the 50 most powerful women in New York City, and New York Magazine has named her one of the most influential New Yorkers.

Quinn lives with her partner, attorney Kim Catullo.

Christine Quinn is the first woman and the first openly gay candidate elected speaker of the New York City Council.



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ROBERT RAUSCHENBERG

b. October 22, 1925

d. May 12, 2008

*“The artist’s job is to be a witness
to his time in history.”*



Robert Rauschenberg was an innovative and influential American artist whose work laid the foundation for the Pop Art movement.

Born Milton Ernst Rauschenberg in Port Arthur, Texas, Rauschenberg grew up in a blue-collar fundamentalist Christian family. After a tour of duty in the Navy, he attended the Kansas City Art Institute and the Académie Julian in Paris. He changed his name to Robert, which he believed was more befitting a painter.

In 1948, Rauschenberg began studying at Black Mountain College in North Carolina. In 1950, he married painter Susan Weil. The couple had a son and divorced in 1953.

At Black Mountain, Rauschenberg studied under Joseph Albers, learning to appreciate objets trouvés—found objects—which later would become hallmarks of his work. He studied and collaborated with other emerging artists, including Cy Twombly, Merce Cunningham, John Cage and Jasper Johns. Rauschenberg had a romantic and professional relationship with Johns for eight years.

Rauschenberg moved to New York, where in 1958, he had his first solo exhibition. The exhibit reflected the artist’s transition from abstract painting to what he termed “combines”—the finding and formation of combinations in three-dimensional collage. One of his most famous combines was “Monogram” (1959), which consisted of a stuffed goat, a police barrier, the heel of a shoe and paint.

As the Pop Art era emerged in the 1960’s, Rauschenberg experimented with silkscreen printing and appropriating photographs from the news of the day. For the remainder of his career, Rauschenberg explored new methods of creating his art. Jasper Johns said, “No American artist invented more than Mr. Rauschenberg.”

In 1964, Rauschenberg was the first American artist to win the Grand Prize at the Venice Biennale.

In 1984, Rauschenberg established ROCI, the Rauschenberg Overseas Culture Interchange at the United Nations—a seven-year project in which Rauschenberg left a piece of art in, and influenced the cultures of, 10 countries.

Rauschenberg won a Grammy Award in 1984 for his design of the Talking Heads’ “Speaking in Tongues” album cover. Four years later, the Guggenheim Museum presented its largest exhibition ever with 400 works by Rauschenberg, showcasing his prolific talent and profound impact on 20th century art.

**Robert Rauschenberg
was an innovative
and influential
American artist
whose work laid the
foundation for the
Pop Art movement.**

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JEROME ROBBINS

b. October 11, 1918

d. July 29, 1998

“I SHALL DANCE. My classes shall be my daily worship and workshop”

Jerome Robbins was a renowned choreographer and director. He won four Tonys, two Oscars and an Emmy.

Born Jerome Rabinowitz, Robbins grew up in Weehawken, New Jersey. In 1937, he enrolled at New York University, but dropped out of college and began studying dance professionally.

By 1939, Robbins was dancing in Broadway productions, notably “Great Lady” and “Keep off the Grass.” His career as a choreographer began in the Poconos, where he earned a reputation as an innovative perfectionist.

In 1944, Robbins created his first major dance composition, “Fancy Free,” a ballet that also marked his first collaboration with composer Leonard Bernstein. Its success brought recognition to both men and inspired their first full-length Broadway musical, “On the Town.”

Jerome Robbins was a renowned choreographer and director. He won four Tony Awards, two Academy Awards and an Emmy Award.

In 1953, Robbins was accused of being a Communist by the House Un-American Activities Committee. Fearing he would be outed as bisexual, he revealed the names of several colleagues.

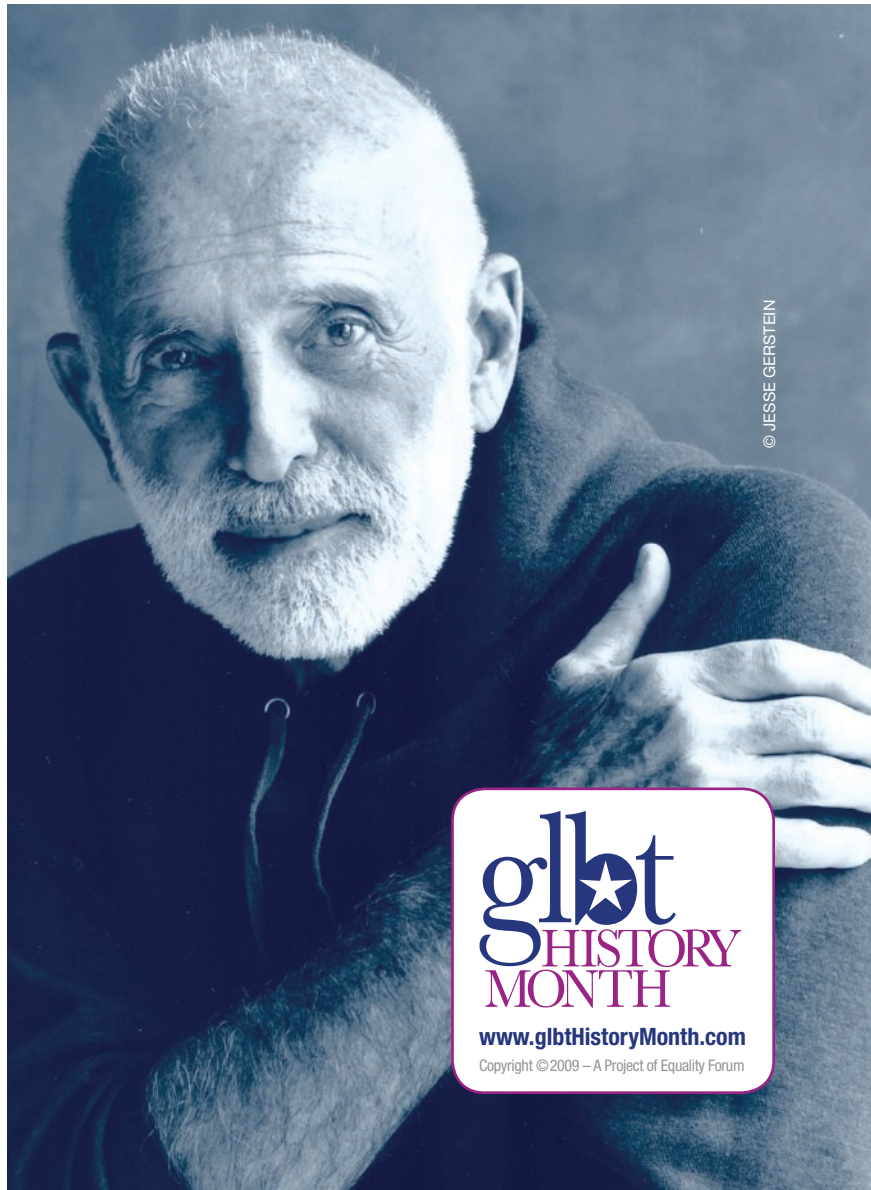
His Broadway shows include “High Button Shoes,” “West Side Story,” “The King and I,” “Gypsy” and “Fiddler on the Roof,”

among others. His 60 ballets include “A Suite of Dances,” created for Mikhail Baryshnikov, and “West Side Story Suite.”

From the 1970’s on, Robbins focused primarily on ballet, returning to musical theater only occasionally. His last Broadway production, “Jerome Robbins’ Broadway,” won six Tony Awards, including best musical and best director.

Robbins won two Academy Awards for the film version of “West Side Story.” He was also a 1981 Kennedy Center Honors Recipient.

Robbins’s final work, “Brandenburg,” was created for the New York City Ballet.



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HILARY ROSEN

b. October 22, 1958

Entertainment Weekly named Hilary Rosen one of the 101 most influential people in entertainment. Out magazine named her one of the 50 most powerful gay and lesbian Americans.

“It’s never satisfying enough to hear how much progress there has been if we don’t have full equality.”

Hilary Rosen is a political contributor for CNN, Washington editor at large for The Huffington Post, and managing partner of the Washington office of the Brunswick Group, a London-based public relations and communications firm.

Rosen grew up in West Orange, New Jersey. Her mother was the first woman elected to the town council.

In 1981, Rosen earned a degree in international business from George Washington University. She started working in politics for New Jersey Governor Brendan Byrne and for U.S. Senator Bill Bradley.

In 1987, Rosen joined the staff of the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA). From 1998 to 2003, she served as RIAA’s chairman and CEO. Under her leadership, RIAA became the most influential voice of the music industry in Washington and advanced a successful campaign to limit digital file swapping of copyrighted music.

In 1999, Rosen and her then-partner, Elizabeth Birch, adopted twins—a boy and a girl.

Rosen began working as a commentator for CNBC and MSNBC. She signed with CNN in 2008. She was a founder of “Rock the Vote,” which promotes youth involvement in politics.

Entertainment Weekly named Rosen one of the 101 most influential people in entertainment. The New York Post ranked Rosen among the 10 ladies who launch entertainment trends. Out Magazine named her one of the 50 most powerful gay and lesbian Americans.



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YVES ST. LAURENT

b. August 1, 1936

d. June 1, 2008

He achieved popularity experimenting with design motifs such as beatnik wear and ethnic patterns, becoming the first designer to introduce elements of pop culture into haute couture.

“Dressing is a way of life.”

One of the most noteworthy fashion designers of the 20th century, Yves St. Laurent is renowned for creating innovative trends that continue to influence style.

Born in Oran, Algeria, St. Laurent first discovered fashion through the theater section of Vogue magazine, taking special interest in costume descriptions.

St. Laurent was a target of bullying at school. He privately countered the taunts by saying to himself, “One day I’ll be famous,” and persisted in his exploration of the world of design.

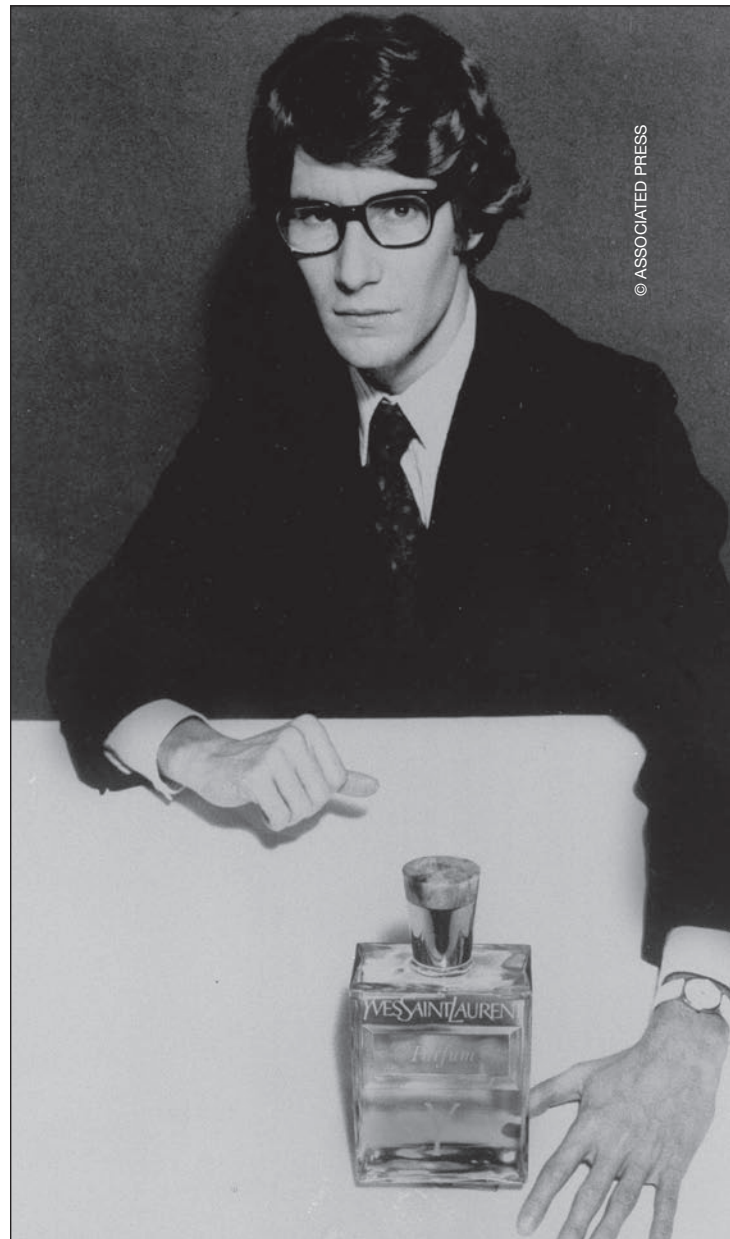
In 1950, his first great opportunity arrived at age 21 when Christian Dior hired him after viewing his design sketches. St. Laurent spent the first year performing administrative tasks for Dior. His talent allowed him to quickly rise through the ranks, and he became the head designer of the company following Dior’s death in 1957.

In 1958, St. Laurent garnered international attention with his first collection, which introduced the legendary trapeze dress. He achieved popularity experimenting with design motifs such as beatnik wear and ethnic patterns, becoming the first designer to introduce elements of pop culture into haute couture.

In 1960, St. Laurent split with Dior to establish his own fashion house with lover and business partner Pierre Bergé. Under his own label, he set new standards for the fashion industry. He was the first high fashion designer to release a ready-to-wear line, and was among the first designers to hire black and Pacific Islander models.

One of St. Laurent’s trademarks was to create feminized versions of menswear, such as tuxedos, safari jackets and trousers, blurring traditional gender roles. His work is widely credited with encouraging unique ways of self-expression.

In 1991, St. Laurent came out to the French magazine Le Figaro. In 2008, he exchanged vows with Bergé in a civil union. St. Laurent died a few days later of brain cancer. A number of women attending his funeral wore trouser suits as a tribute to the designer’s legacy.



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ESERA TUAOLO

b. July 11, 1968

In 2002, Tuaolo came out on the HBO series “Real Sports.”

The emotional interview dealt with Tuaolo’s constant fear of being outed and the homophobic culture of professional sports.

“I feel wonderful. I feel like a burden has been lifted. I feel like I’ve taken off the costume I’ve been wearing all my life.”

Professional football player Esera Tuaolo became the third NFL player to come out.

Tuaolo was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, to a banana-farming Samoan family. He attended Oregon State University where he played football.

The Green Bay Packers drafted him in 1991. A defensive lineman, Tuaolo was the first rookie in NFL history to start in all 16 games. His record earned him a spot on the 1991 All-Rookie team.

While he was with the Packers, Tuaolo was asked to sing the National Anthem for a Thursday night televised game. He refers to this as one of his most memorable moments in professional football.

In 1992, the Packers traded Tuaolo to the Minnesota Vikings. From there, he went on to play for the Jacksonville Jaguars and the Atlanta Falcons. He played in Super Bowl XXXIII with the Falcons. After a season with the Carolina Panthers, he retired in 1999.

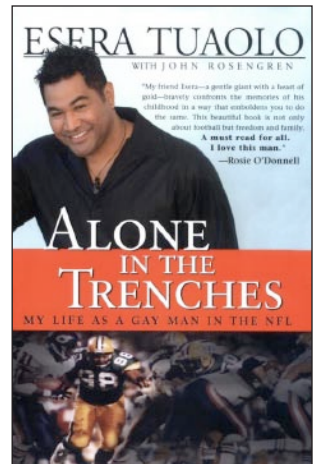
© ESERA TUAOLO

In 2002, Tuaolo came out on the HBO series “Real Sports.” The emotional interview dealt with Tuaolo’s constant fear of being outed, the homophobic culture of professional sports and the responses of former teammates and friends.

In 2006, Tuaolo performed the National Anthem at the opening ceremony of Gay Games VII. The same year, his autobiography “Alone in the Trenches: My Life as a Gay Man in the NFL” was released. The book made Tuaolo a spokesperson against homophobia, particularly the unofficial policy of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” in professional sports. He served as a board member of the Gay and Lesbian Athletics Foundation.

Tuaolo is also an HIV/AIDS activist—his brother died from complications of the disease. He has appeared in public service announcements and is a major fundraiser for Camp Heartland for children and youth with HIV/AIDS.

Tuaolo shares custody of his adopted twin children with his former partner Mitchell Wherley.



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URVASHI VAID

b. October 8, 1958

“Gay people do not fight for freedom to live in a lavender bubble, but in a more just society.”

In 2005, Urvashi Vaid became the executive director of the Arcus Foundation, a private grant-making organization focused on achieving social justice inclusive of sexual orientation, gender identity and race.

Urvashi Vaid is an attorney, author, activist and the executive director of the Arcus Foundation.

Vaid was born in New Delhi, India. In 1966, her family moved to Potsdam, New York, where her father taught at the state university. Vaid's interest in politics began at the age of 11 at an anti-war protest.

In 1979, Vaid graduated from Vassar College. She received her law degree in 1983 from Northeastern University, where she founded the Boston Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance.

From 1983 to 1986, Vaid served as staff attorney for the National Prisons Project of the American Civil Liberties Union. She litigated class action lawsuits to challenge prison conditions and initiated the organization's HIV/AIDS inmate project.

In 1986, Vaid joined the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NLGTF), where she worked for 10 years—first as media director, then as executive director, and finally as director of the NLGTF Policy Institute.

Vaid is the author of “Virtual Equality: the Mainstreaming of Gay and Lesbian Liberation” (1995), a political analysis of the GLBT movement.

In 2005, Vaid became the executive director of the Arcus Foundation, a private grant-making foundation focused on achieving social justice inclusive of sexual orientation, gender identity and race.

In 1991, The Advocate named Vaid Woman of the Year. In 1994, Time magazine named her to its list of 50 key leaders under 40, and in 2009, Out magazine named Vaid one of the 50 most influential men and women in America.

Vaid lives with her partner, comedian Kate Clinton.



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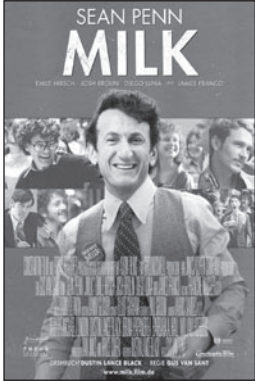
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GUS VAN SANT

b. July 24, 1952

“‘Milk’ is about political grassroots organizing and making it work. That’s what I want people to take away from it. It doesn’t matter if they’re gay or straight.”



Gus Van Sant is an Academy Award nominated director and screenwriter whose films include “Good Will Hunting” and “Milk.”

Van Sant was born in Louisville, Kentucky, the son of a traveling salesman. At an early age, he began producing semi-autobiographical Super-8 movies.

In 1975, Van Sant graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design. After college, he moved to Los Angeles, where he developed a fascination with the city’s marginalized subcultures.

With \$20,000 in savings, he bankrolled most of his first film, “Mala Noche” (1985). Shot in black and white, the ill-fated love story between two men earned Van Sant critical acclaim. The Los Angeles Times named “Mala Noche” the year’s best independent film.

Van Sant wrote and directed “Drugstore Cowboy” (1989), which received rave reviews and won an Independent Spirit Award for the screenplay. “My Own Private Idaho,” starring Keanu Reeves and River Phoenix as male hustlers, earned Van Sant another Independent Spirit Award.

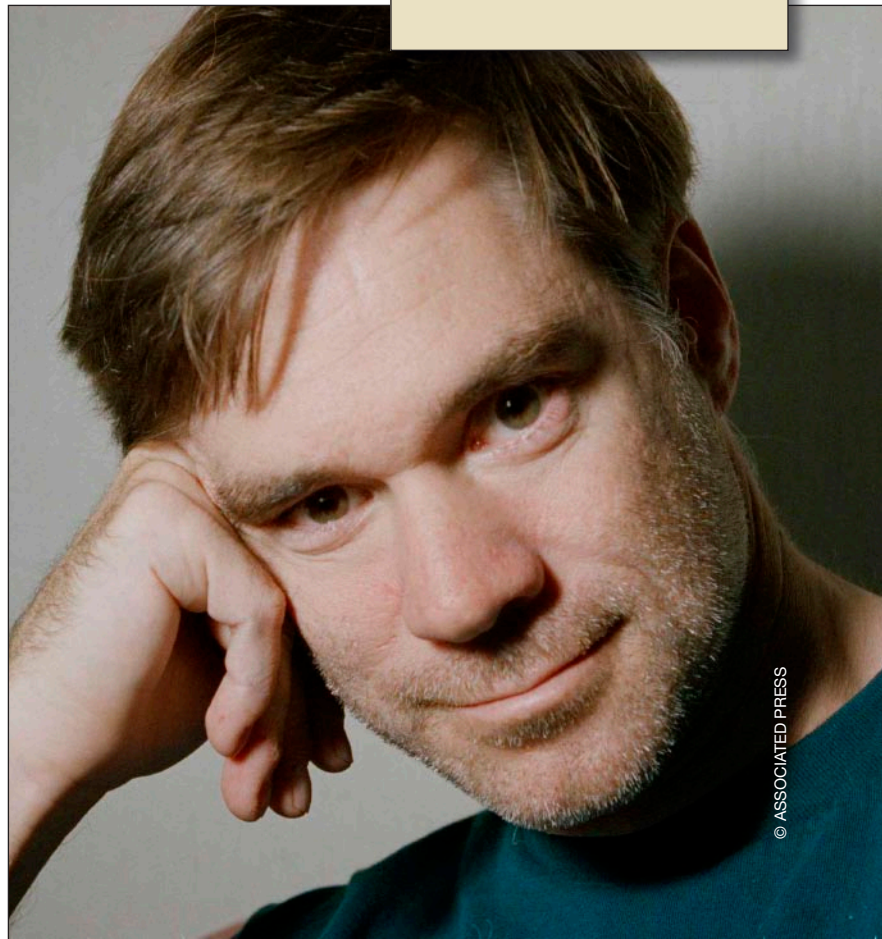
The success of Van Sant’s first major studio directing project, “To Die For” (1995), starring Nicole Kidman, established him as an A-List Hollywood director. His 1997 blockbuster, “Good Will Hunting,” starring Matt Damon and Ben Affleck, was nominated for nine Academy Awards, including best director.

In 2003, Van Sant directed the controversial HBO film “Elephant,” based on the Columbine High School massacre. “Elephant” won the top prize (Palme d’Or) and the Award for Best Director at the Cannes Film Festival.

In 2008, Van Sant directed “Milk,” the story of Harvey Milk, the first openly gay man to become an elected official. The film, starring Sean Penn, was nominated for eight Academy Awards, including best director.

The Advocate named Gus Van Sant one of its 2008 People of the Year.

In 2008, Gus Van Sant directed “Milk.” The film, starring Sean Penn, was nominated for eight Academy Awards, including best director.



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B.D. WONG

b. October 24, 1960

In 1988, Wong made his Broadway debut in “M. Butterfly,” for which he received the Tony Award, Drama Desk Award, Outer Critics Circle Award, Clarence Derwent Award and Theatre World Award.

“I’m perfectly happy going on TV now and saying I’m a gay man. I’m happy and proud to say that.”

B.D. Wong is an award-winning actor best known for his television roles on “Law & Order: Special Victims Unit” and “Oz,” and his Broadway debut in “M. Butterfly.”

Born Bradley Darryl Wong, he grew up in the San Francisco Bay area. He graduated from San Francisco State University and moved to New York.

In 1988, Wong made his Broadway debut in “M. Butterfly,” for which he received the Tony Award, Drama Desk Award, Outer Critics Circle Award, Clarence Derwent Award and Theatre World Award. He is the only actor to be honored with all five awards for the same performance.

In 1993, Wong received rave reviews for his role opposite Sir Ian McKellen in the HBO production “And the Band Played On.” From 1994 to 1995, Wong costarred with Margaret Cho in “All American Girl,” the first American situation comedy on network television to deal with the Asian-American experience.

From 1997 to 2002, Wong had a recurring role as Father Ray Mukado on “Oz,” the gritty HBO prison drama. In 2002, Wong joined the cast of NBC’s “Law & Order: Special Victims Unit” as psychiatrist Dr. George Huang.

On the silver screen, Wong has appeared in “The Father of the Bride” (1991), “Jurassic Park” (1993), and “Executive Decision” (1996). He was the voice of Captain Li Shang in the animated film “Mulan” (1998) and its sequel.

In 1999, Wong and his then-partner, talent agent Richie Jackson, gave birth to twin sons via a surrogate mother. One of the boys died soon after delivery. Jackson Foo Wong, the surviving twin, inspired Wong to write his memoir, “Following Foo.” The book served as Wong’s official coming out.

Wong has been a visible AIDS and GLBT civil rights activist, hosting fund-raisers and appearing at community events. In 2003, he received GLAAD’s Davidson/Valentini Award for making a difference in promoting equal rights.

At the 2008 Asian Excellence Awards, Wong was recognized as Outstanding Television Actor for “Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.”



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