

RICHARD ADAMS

b. March 9, 1947, Manila, Philippines

d. December 17, 2012, Los Angeles, California

ACTIVIST

“We really felt that people could achieve the life they wanted.”

Richard Adams filed the first U.S. lawsuit to seek federal recognition of same-sex marriage. What should have been the beginning of a happy marriage laid the groundwork for his almost 40-year quest for federally recognized marriage equality.

On April 21, 1975, Adams and his Australian partner, Anthony Sullivan, obtained a marriage license in Boulder, Colorado. They were married before the Colorado Attorney General declared same-sex marriage licenses invalid.

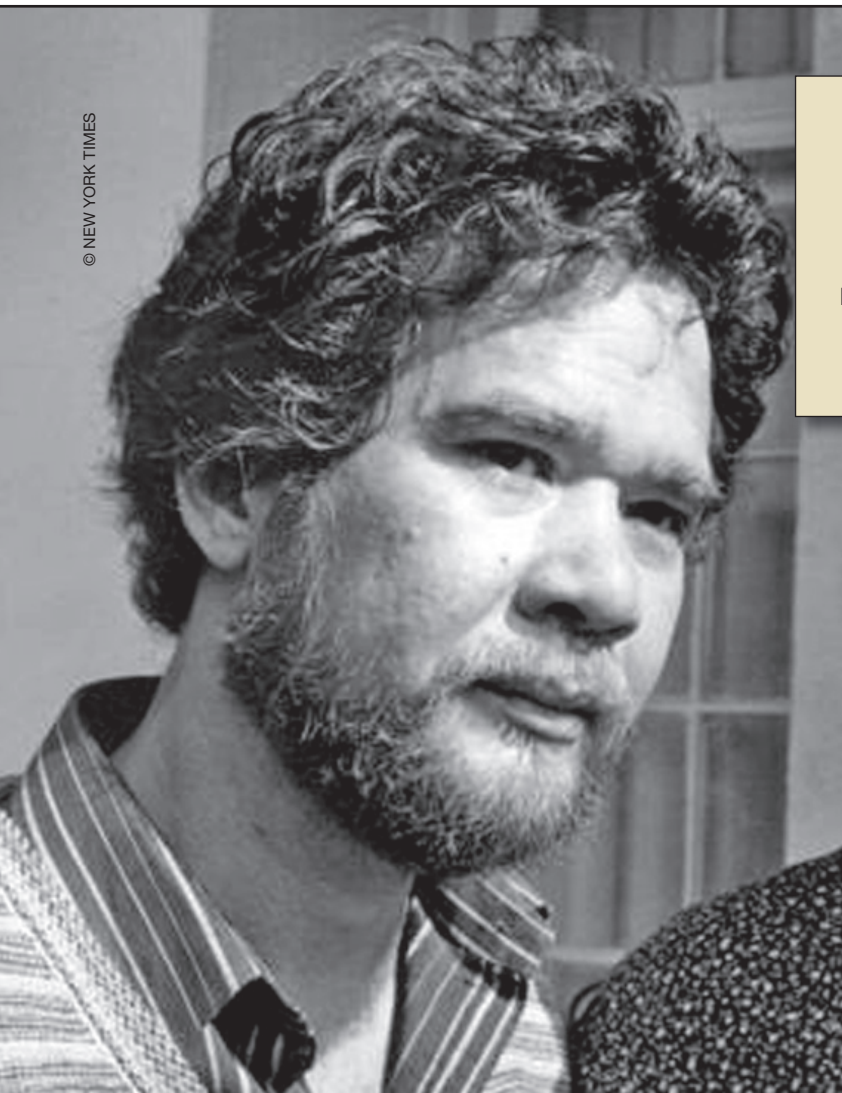
Adams applied to the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) for Sullivan to receive a permanent residency green card as the spouse of an American citizen. In response, the couple received an INS reply that stated, “You have failed to establish that a bona fide marital relationship can exist between two faggots.”

Adams lodged a formal protest. The INS reissued their denial without the slur. Adams filed a suit in federal court, but the judge upheld the INS. Adams filed a second federal suit claiming that after an eight-year relationship, deportation of Sullivan constituted extreme hardship. The federal district court and U.S. Court of Appeals ruled against Adams.

Subsequently, Sullivan requested permanent residency for Adams in Australia. The Australian government denied the request. In 1985 the couple moved to Britain. Adams left behind his family and friends and a job he had for over 18 years. After one year in Britain, the couple returned to the U.S. and kept a low profile so as not to attract INS attention.

Richard Adams filed the first U.S. lawsuit to seek federal recognition of same-sex marriage.

Subsequent to Adams's death and after the U.S. Attorney General in 2011 declared the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional, Sullivan filed for a green card as Adams's widower, so he could remain permanently in the United States.



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FAISAL ALAM

b. June 21, 1977, Frankfurt, Germany

LGBT MUSLIM ACTIVIST

“Our mission is to try to help Muslims to reconcile two identities.”

**At age 19,
Alam created
the Al-Fatiha
Foundation for
LGBT Muslims.**

Born to Pakistani parents and raised in Connecticut, queer Muslim activist Faisal Alam has navigated the precarious terrain of clashing identities. From an early age Alam felt a strong connection to his Islamic faith. He was an active member of Muslim youth groups as a way of engaging with his faith and his community; he became a model of Islam's focus on goodwill and strong communal ties.

When Alam first recognized his queer identity, the seemingly irreconcilable disparity between being Muslim and being queer was devastating. Homosexuality is perceived as contemptuous, even criminal, in many Islamic societies. Alam said, “We really felt caught in between. The last thing you could do was call the mosque for help.”

From this inner conflict emerged Alam's vow to help other struggling LGBT Muslims. “This level of schism in one's life can only last for so long until it takes a toll on your body, your soul, your psyche,” he said. “The promise I made to God, to my creator, is that I would never let what happened to me ever happen again.”

At age 19, Alam created the Al-Fatiha Foundation for LGBT Muslims. Al-Fatiha—literally “the opening”—offered new possibilities for people who live at the intersection of Islam and queerness. What started as a tiny e-mail listserve blossomed into an international organization that held regular conferences and engagements for LGBT Muslims.

By striving to embrace these two identities and encouraging other to do the same, Faisal Alam challenges notions of identity and reflects the positive attributes of his communities.



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TALLULAH BANKHEAD

b. January 31, 1902, Huntsville, Alabama

d. December 12, 1968, New York, New York

ACTRESS

*“Nobody can be exactly like me.
Sometimes even I have trouble doing it.”*

**During a time
when women were
marginalized,
Bankhead was a
beacon of civil rights
and sexual liberation.**

A Hollywood celebrity, Tallulah Bankhead exemplified what it meant to be a liberated woman at a time when women were Victorian and marginalized.

Bankhead's father was a conservative Southern Democrat who served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1917 until 1940. Tallulah was raised in Washington, D.C., where she received a strict religious education.

A proponent of racial integration and civil rights, Bankhead's political values starkly contrasted with those of her family. At age 15, she moved to New York City, where she made a name for herself as an actress and bon vivant both on Broadway and in London.

In Motion Pictures magazine, Bankhead's former assistant disclosed that the two had been sexually involved. A self-described ambisexual, Bankhead's sexual liaisons included the British theater actress Eva Le Gallienne and jazz legend Billie Holiday. Despite Bankhead's notoriety, she was widely admired, including by President Harry Truman.

Bankhead's colorful personality immortalized her in ways that few actresses have achieved. Despite her many scandals, turbulent relations and provocative nature, she is remembered as a beacon of civil rights and sexual liberation.



NATALIE BARNEY

b. October 31, 1876, Dayton, Ohio

d. February 3, 1972, Paris, France

AUTHOR

*“Your life is your most beautiful poem;
you are your own immortal masterpiece.”*

**An American
expatriate in Paris,
Barney started a salon
where leading artists
and intellectuals
gathered.**

Natalie Clifford Barney, a leading pioneer of feminist literature, was a free spirit whose eccentricity and insatiable desire for life, love and art make her one of the most fascinating women of the 20th century.

Barney's life in Paris was a far cry from what her wealthy Midwestern parents expected. They assumed she would marry an aristocrat and generally “behave.”

Barney had no interest in marriage or behaving. She studied for 18 months at a boarding school in Fontainebleau, France, that encouraged girls to think for themselves. Her time there began her passion for the French bohemian lifestyle.

Barney took up residency on the Left Bank, in Paris. France gave her the artistic and sexual freedom she craved. She started a famous salon that served as a gathering place for leading artists and intellectuals. In addition to her weekly salon, Barney

founded the Académie des Femmes to mentor women writers.

Her expansive catalog of work, written from a lesbian perspective, includes poetry, novels, epigrams and plays.

Paris served as the epicenter of Barney's irrepressible love life, where her charisma earned her the reputation as a female Casanova. Her many romantic liaisons became the subject not only of her own literary work, but also of the work of other prominent French artists and intellectuals.

At age 24, Barney began an affair with Anglo-American writer Renee Vivien. From a new and feminist perspective, the two wrote prolifically about sex and gender. But Barney's most notable romance was her 50-year nonmonogamous partnership with painter Romaine Brooks. Barney was Brooks's muse for some of her famous works.

Natalie Barney vitalized the lesbian literary tradition and served as an inspiration for free spirits by being unapologetically herself.



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ALLAN BÉRUBÉ

b. December 3, 1946, Springfield, Massachusetts

d. December 11, 2007, San Francisco, California

HISTORIAN

“World War II relaxed the social constraints of peacetime that had kept gay men and women unaware of ... each other.”

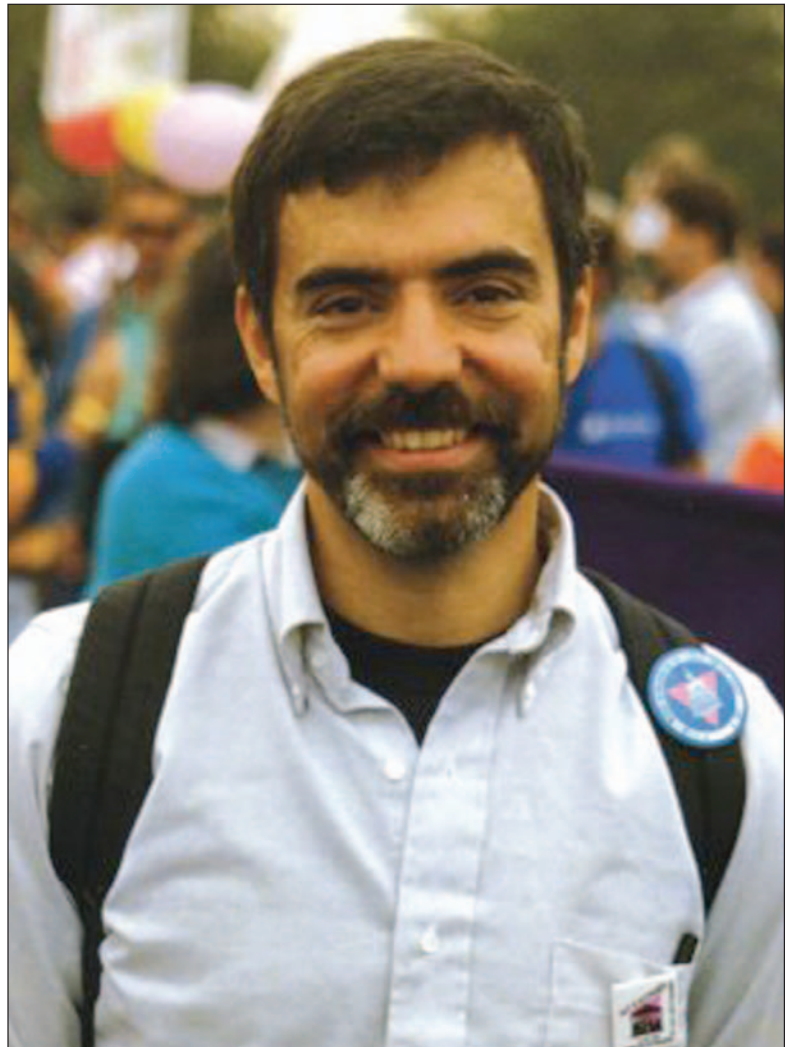
Bérubé’s book “Coming Out Under Fire” influenced the U.S. Senate’s 1993 hearings on the exclusion of lesbians and gay men from the military.

Allan Bérubé is best known for his 1990 book, “Coming Out Under Fire: The History of Gay Men and Women in World War Two.” He posits that servicemen and women during the war found the freedom to explore sexuality in a relatively judgment-free environment. When these soldiers returned home, many settled into a domestic heterosexual lifestyle that launched the baby boom. But a few, knowing they were not as “deviant” as they had been led to believe, decided to stand up against homosexual persecution.

Though Bérubé dropped out of college, he maintained a lifelong passion for scholarship. In 1976 Jonathan Ned Katz’s “Gay American History” inspired Bérubé to conduct his own research. He helped to form the San Francisco Lesbian and Gay History Project. In 1979 he created a slideshow titled “Lesbian Masquerade” about 19th-century women who had passed as men. The presentation became popular and was shown repeatedly in the San Francisco Bay area.

Due to his local celebrity, Bérubé received from an acquaintance the letters of Harold Clark. These letters detailed Clark’s friendships with other gay men during World War II. Bérubé created a second slideshow lecture, which he toured with across the country. His work inspired veterans to contribute their stories to the project. Thus began the 10-year journey that culminated in the publication of “Coming Out Under Fire.”

In 1990 “Coming Out Under Fire” received the Lambda Literary Award for outstanding Gay Men’s Nonfiction and influenced the U.S. Senate’s 1993 hearings on the exclusion of lesbians and gay men from the military. A documentary adaptation of the book won a Peabody Award.



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BERNICE BING

b. April 10, 1936, San Francisco, California

d. August 18, 1998, Philo, California

ARTIST

“Drawing was the thing that kept me connected.”

Bing's body of work reflects her lifelong feelings of cultural duality.

A leading Asian-American artist, Bernice Bing spent her early childhood in a Chinese orphanage, in Caucasian foster homes and with her Chinese grandmother. She described her grandmother as having residual feelings of “anger and subservience” combined with an underlying strength. “For me there was the difficulty of being an Asian-American child going to a basically very middle-class white school and trying to assimilate both of these cultures,” Bing said.

Bing attended the California College of Arts & Crafts. After changing her study to painting, she encountered Japanese painting professor Saburo Hasegawa. A practitioner of Zen, Hasegawa’s structured lessons, Eastern philosophies, style, and introspection inspired Bing and influenced her life and her work.

In discussing her time with Hasegawa, Bing said, “I had no idea what it meant to be an Asian woman, and he got me started thinking about that.”

A three-month trip to Asia helped influence Bing’s most iconic works, in which she incorporated Chinese calligraphy. Just as her connection to her grandmother influenced her identity, so too did her trip to China. Her journeys through the streets, cities and small villages left her feeling that she was apart. “I suddenly realized that I was in the majority, yet, also, though I had the same skin color, I was a stranger,” she said. “My posture, my dress was different, my accent was quite different—everyone knew I was a foreigner.” Bing’s masterpieces reflect her lifelong feelings of cultural duality and incorporate Eastern technique.



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IVY BOTTINI

b. August 15, 1926, Lynbrook, New York

WOMEN'S AND LGBT ACTIVIST

“For 50 years, my passion has been equal rights for women, lesbians and gay men, and it continues.”

Ivy Bottini is a pioneering lesbian feminist. In 1966 she was inspired by Betty Friedan's book “The Feminine Mystique.” She met Friedan and together they established the first chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW). Bottini served on the national board of NOW for three years and was president of the New York chapter for two years.

Friedan was vocal in her concerns about out lesbians in NOW. Because lesbians were being asked to closet themselves, Bottini left. She moved to the West Coast where she became the women's program director for the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center. Bottini met local activist Morris Kight and they formed the Coalition for Human Rights to oppose the Briggs Initiative. The initiative threatened termination of lesbian and gay teachers in California. In 1978 Briggs was defeated. It was the first defeat in the nation of a homophobic state referendum.

Bottini continued as a radical force for LGBT activism through the 1980s. She cofounded the Los Angeles Lesbian/Gay Police Advisory Board and formed AIDS Network LA, the first organization in the city created to combat AIDS. In 1986 she successfully worked to defeat Proposition 64, which designated homosexuals as a public menace who should be quarantined.

In 1993 Bottini founded the nonprofit organization Gay & Lesbian Elder Housing, Inc. The organization's first low-income LGBT senior housing project, Triangle Square, is located in the heart of Hollywood.

**In 1986 Bottini
successfully worked
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should be quarantined.**



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LORD BYRON

b. January 1, 1788, London, England

d. April 19, 1824, Ottoman Empire

POET

“The great art of life is sensation, to feel that we exist, even in pain.”

Best known for his satirical epic poem, “Don Juan,” and his own life of excess, Lord Byron was among the first prominent bisexuals.

Born George Gordon, Lord Byron was a leading poet of the Romantic period. His ambiguous sexuality, flamboyant persona, and lifestyle of excess have made him a cultural and literary legend and among the first prominent bisexuals.

Byron studied at Trinity College in Cambridge, where he published his first volumes of poetry. In his early 20s, he traveled throughout the Mediterranean region and took up residency in Greece. When Byron returned to England in 1811, he published “Childe Harold’s Pilgrimage,” which garnered him a following among aristocrats and intellectuals.

Byron’s personal life was steeped in mystery. It is speculated that he had a child with his half-sister Augusta. In 1816 he spent the summer with authors Mary and Percy Shelley, with whom Byron is thought to have had more than a platonic

relationship. His extravagant personality and penchant for scandal made Byron a celebrity of the Romantic era.

Lord Byron’s literary legacy is defined by his satirical epic poem, “Don Juan.” Byron’s hero, Don Juan is a fictional libertine characterized by cynicism, magnetism and rebellion.

Byron wrote openly about love and lust for both men and women. He was among the first important writers labeled as bisexual. Some scholars assert that such a label does not encompass the full complexity of the poet’s fluid sexuality. Noted literature professor Emily Bernhard Jackson stated:

“It is not so simple to define Byron as homosexual or heterosexual: he seems rather to have been both, and neither ... For Byron, sexuality was not this -ality or that -ality, not this aim or that object, not this particular yearning or that particular desire. It was just desire, and it just was.”



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MICHAEL CALLEN

b. April 11, 1955, Rising Sun, Indiana

d. December 27, 1993, Los Angeles, California

AIDS ACTIVIST

*“The party that was
the ’70s is over.”*

**Diagnosed in 1982
with the “gay cancer”
and convinced it was
sexually transmitted,
Callen co-wrote one of
the first guides on safe-
sex practices.**

Michael Callen was a pioneering AIDS activist. In 1982, when Callen was diagnosed with Gay Related Immune Deficiency (GRID), little was known about the “gay cancer.” Those with the disease knew their days were numbered and that the disease stigmatized them. Callen did not hesitate to come out openly as a gay man with the fatal disease and to take action.

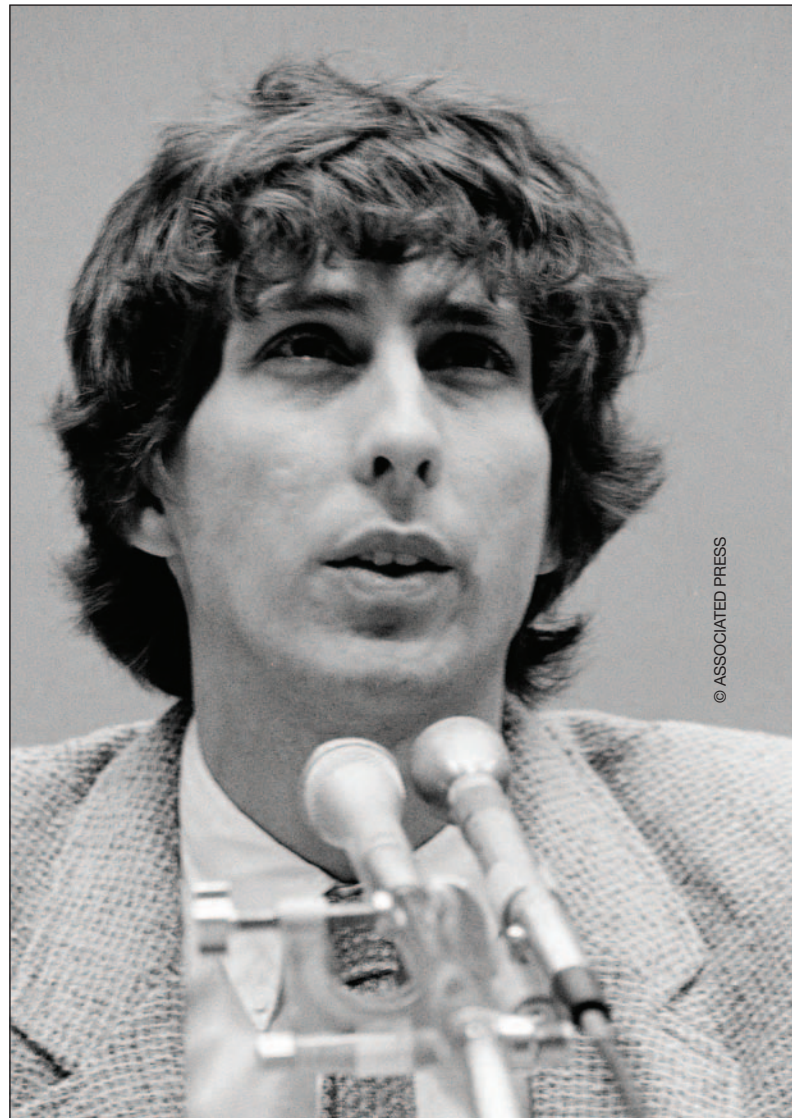
He was convinced that GRID was sexually transmitted. In 1983 Callen co-wrote one of the first guides on safe-sex practices, “How to Have Sex in an Epidemic.” He appeared on television talk shows and wrote for newspapers and magazines. He became the face of AIDS, as the disease was renamed.

While Callen never advocated for the closure of bathhouses, he did believe that gay men were suffering from their own promiscuity. In 1982 he coauthored an article in the New York Native in which he declared “war on promiscuity” and argued that gay men needed to rethink their attitudes toward sex and relationships.

Callen also gained recognition as a songwriter and singer. His music reflects the frustration of living with a chronic disease but also celebrates love as a powerful force for healing. His lyrics promote loving companionship and long-term partnerships for gay men.

Callen toured internationally with the gay a capella group The Flirtations. His solo album, “Purple Heart” (1988), won wide acclaim and features the hit song “Love Don’t Need a Reason,” which he performed at the 1993 March on Washington for LGBT Rights.

In 1985 Callen helped found the People With AIDS Coalition. In doing so he coined the term PWA’s (People With AIDS) to foster a self-empowered movement. He served on many boards and provided testimony for government bodies including the President’s Commission on AIDS. Callen died of AIDS-related complications.



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TSENG KWONG CHI

b. September 6, 1950, Hong Kong

d. March 10, 1990, New York, New York

PHOTOGRAPHER

“My photographs are social studies and social comments on Western society and its relationship with the East.”

Although his work engages a wide variety of traditions, Tseng’s best-known photographs are self-portraits that explore perceptions of identity and stereotypes.

Tseng Kwong Chi, also known as Joseph Tseng, was the preeminent photographer of the 1980s New York pop scene. His work engages a wide variety of traditions, from landscape photography to portraiture. His best-known photographs examine perceptions of “foreign-ness,” as he experimented artistically with his Asian-American identity.

Tseng immigrated as a teen with his family to Canada. After studying Fine Arts in Paris, he moved to New York City. Tseng compiled portraits of the period’s most celebrated artists. He produced the largest Keith Haring archive, taking more than 40,000 photographs of the renowned graffiti artist and his drawings and murals.

Tseng’s most famous body of work is his collection of self-portraits, titled “Expeditionary Self-Portrait Series” or alternatively “East Meets West.” In the series, Tseng adopted the identity of a stereotypical Chinese dignitary, donning

a Mao suit, mirrored sunglasses and an ID badge that read “SlutforArt.” He situated himself in front of well-known Western monuments and tourist sites, including the World Trade Center, the Eiffel Tower and Mount Rushmore.

Tseng’s photographs exploit the juxtaposition of perceived and self-assigned identities. Reductive stereotypes were particularly relevant for LGBT Americans of his generation.

At age 39, Tseng died of AIDS-related illness. The stunning portfolio he amassed in his brief career secured his legacy as one of the best photographers of his era. His work has been displayed in museums worldwide, including the Guggenheim and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.



PHOTOGRAPH BY TSENG KWONG CHI © MUNA TSENG DANCE PROJECTS, INC., NEW YORK.

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MARGARET CHO

b. December 5, 1968, San Francisco, California

ENTERTAINER

“Try to love someone you want to hate, because they are just like you, somewhere inside, in a way you may never expect.”

Margaret Cho is a nationally known comedian. She was born to Korean immigrant parents in San Francisco, a place that she calls “different than any other place on Earth.” Despite this melting pot of ethnicities and sexualities, Cho faced discrimination because of her weight.

“Being bullied influenced my adult life because I grew up too fast,” Cho said. “I was in such a hurry to escape that I cheated myself out of a childhood.” Through this struggle, she found the emotional strength to advocate for those facing discrimination and ridicule.

At age 14, Cho channeled her experiences into stand-up comedy. In college she won a stand-up comedy contest. The first prize was opening for Jerry Seinfeld. Upon seeing her act, Seinfeld suggested that Cho quit college and pursue a career in comedy. Cho was among the first to bring LGBT rights out of the shadows and into the mainstream comedy circuit.

About her own sexuality Cho stated, “I refer to myself as gay, but I am married to a man. Of course, I’ve had relationships with women, but my politics are more queer than my lifestyle.” Cho’s uncensored stand-up routines often include queer politics. Her stance against bullying and discrimination earned her a GLAAD Golden Gate Award for enhancing the understanding, advocacy and visibility of the LGBT community.



Cho was among the first to bring LGBT rights out of the shadows and into the mainstream comedy circuit.

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JEAN COCTEAU

b. July 5, 1889, Maisons-Laffitte, France

d. October 11, 1963, Milly-la-Forêt, France

WRITER

“What the public criticizes in you, cultivate. It is you.”

**Celebrated as
“The Frivolous
Prince,” Cocteau
is one of the most
influential figures
in the 20th century
French art world.**

For Jean Cocteau, life was art. This writer, illustrator, poet and filmmaker knew no boundaries in his creative endeavors. A prolific catalog of genre-spanning work makes Cocteau one of the most influential figures of the 20th century French art world.

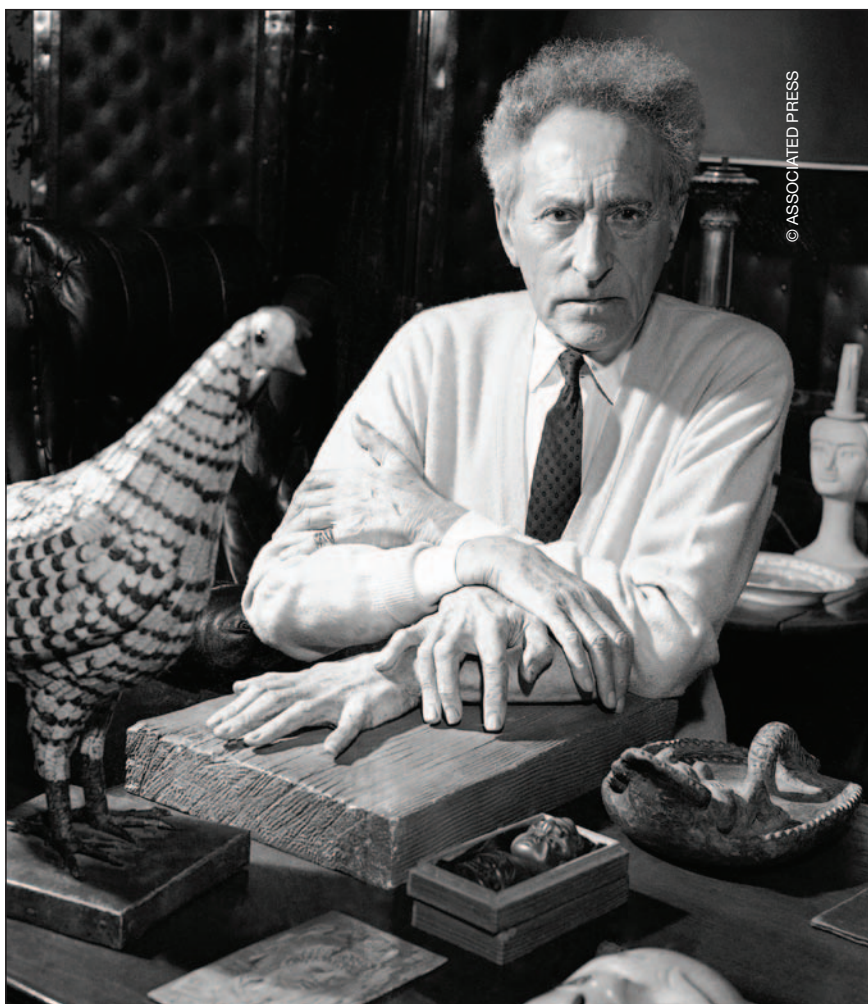
Cocteau was born to a well-to-do family in a small French town. His father committed suicide when Cocteau was 10. A troubled child, he was expelled from a host of private schools. Seeking an escape, he took off to the red-light district in Marseilles. At age 19, he published his first book of poetry, “Aladdin’s Lamp.”

Celebrated in Paris’s bohemian circles as “The Frivolous Prince,” Cocteau secured a spot at the epicenter of French culture, collaborating with celebrities of the era like Pablo Picasso, Marcel Proust and Edith Piaf. Looking to advance his career, he arranged a meeting with Russian impresario Sergei Diaghilev, which resulted in their collaboration on the ballet “Parade.” He also wrote librettos, plays, novels, poems, and film scripts, and dabbled in art and illustration.

In his personal life, Cocteau mostly sought the companionship of men, although he did sporadically pursue women, including Princess Natalie Paley, a member of the Romanov family. His most notable relationship was with fellow poet Raymond Radiguet. Although Cocteau denied that the relationship was romantic, he developed an opium addiction when Radiguet died suddenly.

Cocteau was a key player in France’s emerging avant-garde movement. He found a new muse and lover in actor Jean Marais, who he cast in films such as “Beauty and the Beast” and “Orpheus.” Their 20-year relationship continued until Cocteau’s death.

Cocteau was a multidisciplinary artist with ceaseless creativity. By blurring the line between the reality of his life and the fiction of his work, his existence itself became a work of art.



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ORLANDO CRUZ

b. July 1, 1981, Yabucoa, Puerto Rico

BOXER

“I have and will always be a proud Puerto Rican. I have always been and always will be a proud gay man.”

The 2000 Olympic Games were pivotal for boxer Orlando Cruz. After representing Puerto Rico in the games, Cruz launched his professional boxing career. He won a world featherweight title and went nine years without a defeat.

The homophobia that Cruz experienced growing up in Puerto Rico made it difficult for him to accept his sexuality, especially in the world of boxing machismo. Cruz’s internal conflict continued as rumors spread among boxing fans. This tension culminated during his 2008 world title fight. “The spectators bad-mouthed me; they called me a faggot,” Cruz said. “That’s when I realized that something had to change.”

Cruz spent the next few years meeting with a psychologist to work through coming out publicly. In 2012 Cruz became the first professional boxer to come out during his career and one of the first professional athletes to come out while still active. Soon after, he won a major fight wearing rainbow shorts. A year later he married his boyfriend.

In 2013 the National Gay and Lesbian Sports Hall of Fame made Cruz an inaugural inductee. He stated, “I want kids to know that you can be whoever you want to be, including a professional boxer.”

In 2012 Cruz became the first professional boxer to come out during his career and one of the first professional athletes to come out while still active.



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LEE DANIELS

b. December 24, 1959, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

MOVIE DIRECTOR

"I don't work with fear, and I don't work with actors that are fearful."

Daniels became a Hollywood force when his production company released "Monster's Ball," a movie for which Halle Berry won the Oscar for Best Actress.

Lee Daniels is an Academy Award nominated producer, director, screenwriter and actor.

Daniels survived a traumatic childhood. After being caught wearing his mother's pumps, he was violently assaulted by his father. Daniels stated, "When I came out it was because I loathed my dad so much."

Torment also followed Daniels to school. He was gay and black in a predominantly white school. "I was always told that I was nothing because I was gay," he said.

At age 21, Daniels started a nurse-staffing agency, which he sold a year

later. The sale made him a millionaire and allowed him to pursue his dream of working in the entertainment industry. He first worked as a casting director and later as a talent manager. He built a client base of Academy Award winners and nominees, most of whom later worked in Daniels's films.

Daniels became a Hollywood force in 2001 when his production company released "Monster's Ball," a movie for which Halle Berry won the Oscar for Best Actress. Daniels later directed the film "Precious." His experience as a sexually abused child inspired his direction of the film. "Precious" received six Academy Award nominations, including Best Director, and earned two Academy Awards.

In 2012 his film "The Paperboy," with Nicole Kidman, was nominated for the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival.

In 2013 Daniels directed the critically acclaimed film "The Butler," with Oprah Winfrey, Forest Whitaker, John Cusack, Jane Fonda and Mariah Carey.



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STORMÉ DELARVERIE

b. December 24, 1920, New Orleans, Louisiana

d. May 24, 2014, Brooklyn, New York

STONEWALL ACTIVIST

“It was a rebellion, it was an uprising, it was a civil rights disobedience—it wasn’t no damn riot.”

**At the Stonewall Riot
on June 27, 1969,
DeLarverie threw the
first punch.**

Stormé DeLarverie was a Stonewall veteran and the sole female performer for the Jewel Box Review, a traveling drag show that toured the country from 1939 into the 1960s. At that time, cross-dressing was considered a criminal offense in most municipalities. The review included 24 drag queens and Stormé (pronounced “Stormy”), the only drag king.

When DeLarverie wasn’t traveling with the troupe, she lived at the Hotel Chelsea in Manhattan and worked security at Henrietta Hudson, a well-known lesbian bar in the West Village. Constantly vigilant, DeLarverie thought of the bar patrons as her “babies” and patrolled the streets as their defender.

At the Stonewall Riot on June 27, 1969, DeLarverie threw the first punch. As the story goes, the New York City police raided the Stonewall Inn, a bar in Greenwich Village frequented by gay men, lesbians, and drag kings and queens. The police raids were habitual. That night DeLarverie saw three officers ganging up on one young man and sprang to the victim’s defense. One of the policemen shouted, “Move, Faggot!” mistaking DeLarverie for a man. The officer shoved DeLarverie, who retaliated with a punch to the face. The officer dropped to the ground, bleeding; thus began the Stonewall Riot.

DeLarverie preferred the word “rebellion” when it came to describing the events at Stonewall. She felt the term “riot” connoted chaos and criminality.

In 2003 filmmaker Sam Bassett produced a documentary about DeLarverie. When she died at the age of 93, hundreds of admirers attended her West Village funeral service.



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VAL JOE “RUDY” GALINDO

b. September 7, 1969, San Jose, California

OLYMPIC FIGURE SKATER

*“HIV-AIDS is not a death sentence.
You can go out there and do what you want.”*

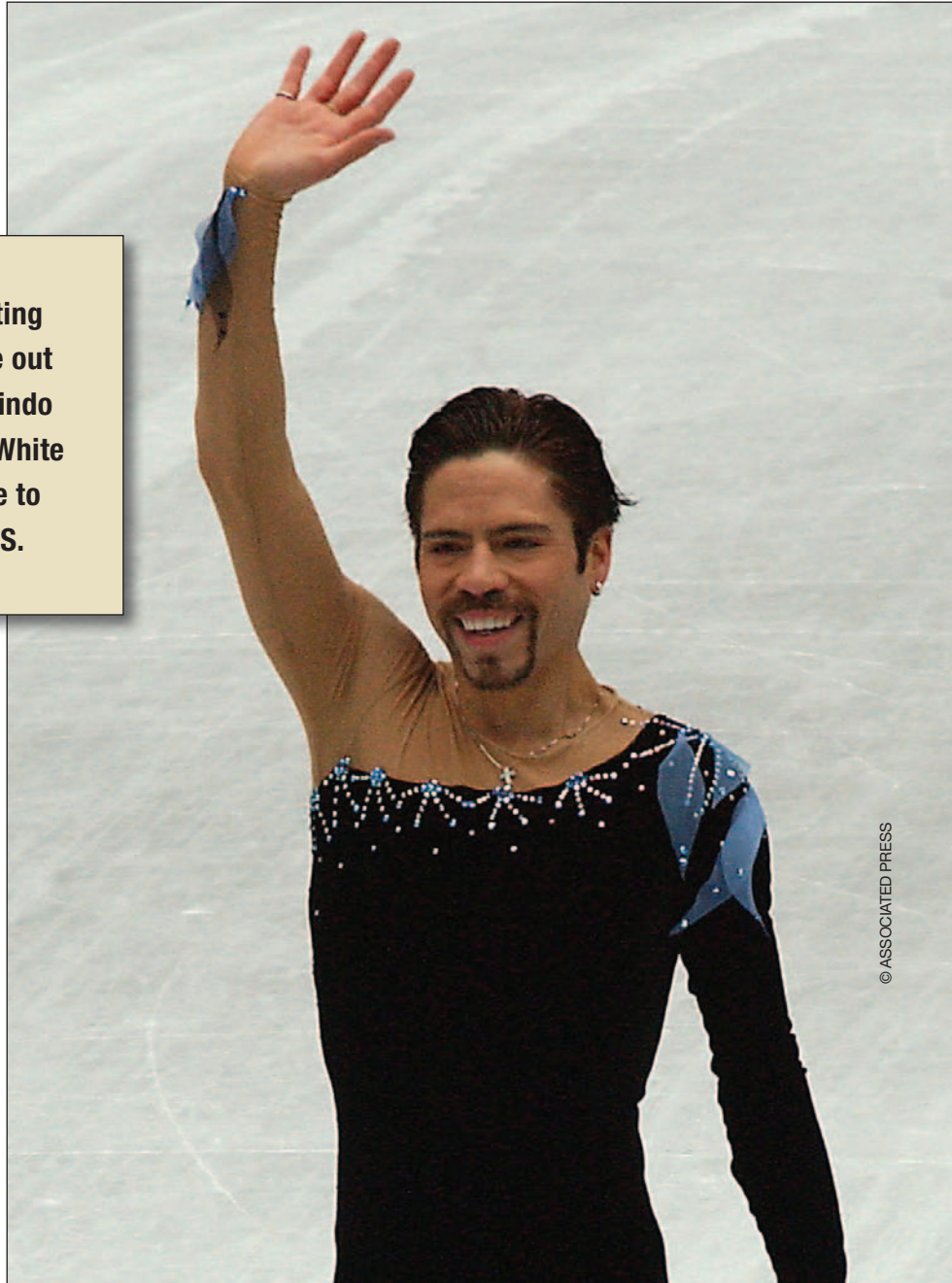
In 1996 Rudy Galindo became the first United States skating champion to come out as openly gay.

Galindo is famous for his grace on the ice. A singles and doubles skating phenomenon, he won the World Junior Championship in 1987 and the U.S. National Championship in 1997. With doubles partner Kristi Yamaguchi, he won the World Junior Championship in 1988 and the U.S. National Championship in 1989 and 1990. In 1996 he won the bronze medal at the World Championships.

In 1997 Galindo published his autobiography, which recounted his childhood of poverty, the death of his older brother and a coach from AIDS, the death of his domineering father, and his mother’s mental illness.

In 2000 Galindo came out as HIV-positive.
In 2001 he was awarded the Ryan White
Award for Service to Prevent HIV/AIDS.

**The first U.S. skating
champion to come out
as openly gay, Galindo
received the Ryan White
Award for Service to
Prevent HIV/AIDS.**



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DARLENE GARNER

b. September 28, 1948, Columbus, Ohio

LGBT ACTIVIST

“One of the things that the United States has never been able to tolerate for long has been injustice and bigotry.”

Garner helped found the National Coalition of Black Gays, the first non-white LGBT organization in the country.

Before Darlene Garner helped found the National Coalition of Black Gays (NCBG)—later known as the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays—“gay” was largely synonymous with “white.” Garner and other early black LGBT leaders were determined to make their voices heard and their unique experiences as LGBT people of color known. “What we were doing had the capacity to change the face of history,” Garner stated. “Our youth and naiveté helped us do it with a boldness. If we had been seasoned activists, we might not have taken it on. We know that if it was not us, there might be no one.” The NCBG became the first non-white LGBT organization in the country.

Following her involvement with the NCBG, Garner entered a seminary to serve the spiritual needs of the LGBT community. As an ordained minister of the Metropolitan

Community Church, Garner devoted herself to religious, racial and LGBT advocacy.

In 2009 when the Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Equality Amendment Act passed in Washington, D.C., Garner and her partner, Candy, were among the first same-sex couples to marry.

Garner helped demonstrate that LGBT issues are not white-only and that LGBT people exist in a rainbow of skin tones.



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GLENN GREENWALD

b. March 6, 1967, New York, New York

JOURNALIST

“Gay issues are about the same fundamental issues as other civil liberties questions—the rights of the individual.”

Greenwald disclosed to international media classified U.S. documents obtained by Edward Snowden, thereby exposing controversial NSA surveillance activities.

Glenn Greenwald was born in New York and raised in Lauderdale Lakes, Florida, where his grandfather was a city councilman. Greenwald's youthful ambition was politics. He became the first teenager on the county parks and recreation board.

Greenwald studied law at New York University. His debate skills helped secure him a job at a prominent law firm that represented rich and powerful clients. Dissatisfied with the work, he came out as a gay man and began his own law firm. Greenwald believed that as social outcasts, gay people tend to be more willing to challenge authority.

In 2005 Greenwald launched a blog, Unclaimed Territory. He focused on unbridled government surveillance versus first-amendment rights. In 2006 he published “How Would a Patriot Act? Defending American Values from a President Run Amok,”

which became a New York Times best seller. Greenwald gained notoriety for providing the international media with classified National Security Agency (NSA) documents illegally obtained by Edward Snowden. The disclosure exposed controversial U.S. government surveillance activities.

When the United States soldier formerly known as Bradley Manning (now Chelsea Manning) was arrested for stealing secret government documents about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and disseminating them to WikiLeaks, Greenwald came to Manning's defense. Greenwald characterized Manning's intentions as “politically insightful, astute and thoughtful.”

Greenwald published an article praising President Obama for his support of same-sex marriage. For Greenwald the matter was personal. In 2005 he left the United States to pursue a relationship with a Brazilian man, David Miranda. Of Obama's endorsement Greenwald stated, “It is a powerful message to gay youth that their sexual orientation is neither a flaw nor an abnormality.”



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ANGELINA WELD GRIMKÉ

b. February 27, 1880, Boston, Massachusetts

d. June 10, 1958, New York, New York

POET AND PLAYWRIGHT

*"I oft have dreamed the bliss
Of the nectar in one kiss."*

Grimké's three-act drama, "Rachel," was the first play by a black woman to be staged in a public theater.

Angelina Weld Grimké was a poet, teacher and playwright who helped pave the way for the Harlem Renaissance. Grimké was one of the nation's first celebrated female African-American authors.

Grimké was born to a prominent biracial couple who divorced soon after her birth. Her mother left when Grimké was a toddler and committed suicide several years later. Grimké had a strained relationship with her father, whose lineage of notable abolitionists set high expectations for his daughter.

Grimké excelled academically, publishing her first poem at age 13. She earned a degree in physical education from the Boston Normal School of Gymnastics. She moved to Washington, D.C., where she taught while writing poetry in her spare time.

Although Grimké was called to write, she felt pressure to please her father by not publishing anything that could tarnish the family name. What Grimké did publish was highly successful, including her three-act drama, "Rachel," the first play by a black woman to be staged in a public theater.

Little is known of Grimké's personal relationships, but her work often alludes to suppressed emotions, and several of her unpublished poems feature explicitly lesbian content. Her diary includes entries about her female lovers.

Although her work was well received, Grimké retreated to solitude for most of her life. After her father's death in 1930, she never published again.



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BILLIE HOLIDAY

b. April 7, 1915, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

d. July 17, 1959, New York, New York

SINGER

"I hate straight singing. I have to change a tune to my way of it."

Holiday sang with the swing era's greatest musicians and was one of the first African-Americans to work with a white orchestra.

If one has to live the blues to sing the blues, it is no wonder that Billie Holiday became a legendary jazz/blues vocalist and songwriter and a seminal influence in phrasing, tempo and style.

Born Eleanora Fagan in Philadelphia, Holiday was raised in Baltimore. Her mother, Sadie Fagan, was a young teen when she gave birth to Billie. While Billie's paternity is uncertain, jazz guitarist Clarence Holiday accepted that he was probably her father.

Holiday dropped out of school around the fifth grade when she started housekeeping for a brothel. At age 10, she was sexually assaulted and sent to a reform school. At age 13, she moved to Harlem to be with her mother. Captivated by the 1920s jazz sounds of Louis Armstrong and Bessie Smith, Holiday began singing at Harlem night clubs.

At age 18, she recorded songs with Benny Goodman, and by age 20, she had signed as a recording star with Brunswick Records. During this time, she recorded with the swing era's greatest musicians.

In her mid-20s, Holiday was the lead vocalist for the Count Basie Band. She moved to the Artie Shaw Band, where she was one of the first African-Americans to work with a white orchestra.

Holiday's best-known recordings include "Summertime," "They Can't Take That Away from Me," "Easy Swing," "Strange Fruit," "I'll Get By," "Lover Man," "Lady Sings the Blues," and many other classics.

Holiday married jazz trombonist Jimmy Monroe. She divorced Monroe and married an abusive mafioso, Louis McKay. Though married, she is said to have had affairs with Hollywood stars and starlets, most notably Tallulah Bankhead.

Due to heroin addiction and fiscal mismanagement, Holiday died destitute at 44 years old.



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MARC JACOBS

b. April 9, 1963, New York, New York

FASHION DESIGNER

“That’s what I think everyone should aspire to in life—being shameless.”

The Marc Jacobs label reflects the designer’s aesthetic: “diametrically opposed, yet completely signature.”

Marc Jacobs is an internationally renowned American fashion designer best known for his own label and his work with Louis Vuitton. His designs have explored the spaces between clashing influences such as androgyny, traditional Japan and rock ‘n’ roll.

As vice president of women’s wear at Perry Ellis, Jacobs assembled a luxury grunge collection with flannel shirts made of silk and thermal underwear made of cashmere. The mix of high couture and street fashion was polarizing. Critics lauded Jacobs; Perry Ellis fired him. Jacobs launched his own label and his unconventionality propelled him to a post as creative director for Louis Vuitton.

The designer’s artistic intuition helps guide him through the turbulent world of fashion. As Jacobs put it, “When I go against what I feel and do what I’m obliged to do, I’m always unhappy.” His instincts animate his designs with a spirit that transcends traditional fashion.

The Marc Jacobs label reflects that spirit: “diametrically opposed, yet completely signature.”

The winner of prestigious fashion awards, Jacobs was recognized in 2010 as one of Time magazine’s 100 most influential people in the world. In 2012 OUT Magazine ranked him among the 50 most powerful gay men and women in America. In 2013 Diet Coke named Jacobs creative director to celebrate the brand’s 30th anniversary with a “stylish and light-hearted” makeover. Jacobs continues to change the way the world sees fashion.



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JUNE JORDAN

b. July 9, 1936, Harlem, New York

d. June 14, 2002, Berkeley, California

POET

“To tell the truth is to become beautiful, to begin to love yourself, value yourself. And that’s political, in its most profound way.”

**Toni Morrison described
Jordan’s legacy best:
“forty years of tireless
activism coupled with and
fueled by flawless art.”**

June Jordan was an activist, journalist, essayist, educator and celebrated African-American poet. Her commitment to fighting oppression, particularly of women and blacks, was the defining element of her work.

Jordan discovered her calling as a poet at an early age. Her father loved literature and maintained irrationally high expectations of Jordan. He required his young daughter to memorize poetry from the time she could read. Although these compulsory assignments strained Jordan’s relationship with her father, they also ignited her passion for language. Speaking of this fraught parental relationship, she said, “My father was very intense, passionate and over-the-top. He was my hero and my tyrant.”

Jordan attended Barnard College in New York, but left without graduating because of her opposition to the white patriarchal curriculum. In 1969 she published her first book of poetry, “Who Look at Me.” Jordan composed this work in black English vernacular, which she believed was an essential characteristic of her culture.

Throughout her prolific career, Jordan’s work ranged from poems to political essays to children’s literature. Though it spanned numerous genres, her work was consistent in engaging social issues and speaking out against oppression.

Jordan received many awards including a lifetime achievement award from the National Black Writers’ Conference. She was well respected and taught at prominent universities including Yale and University of California, Berkeley.

After battling breast cancer, Jordan died at age 65. Toni Morrison described Jordan’s legacy best: “forty years of tireless activism coupled with and fueled by flawless art.”



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KATHY KOZACHENKO

b. ca 1954, date unconfirmed

FIRST “OUT” ELECTED OFFICIAL

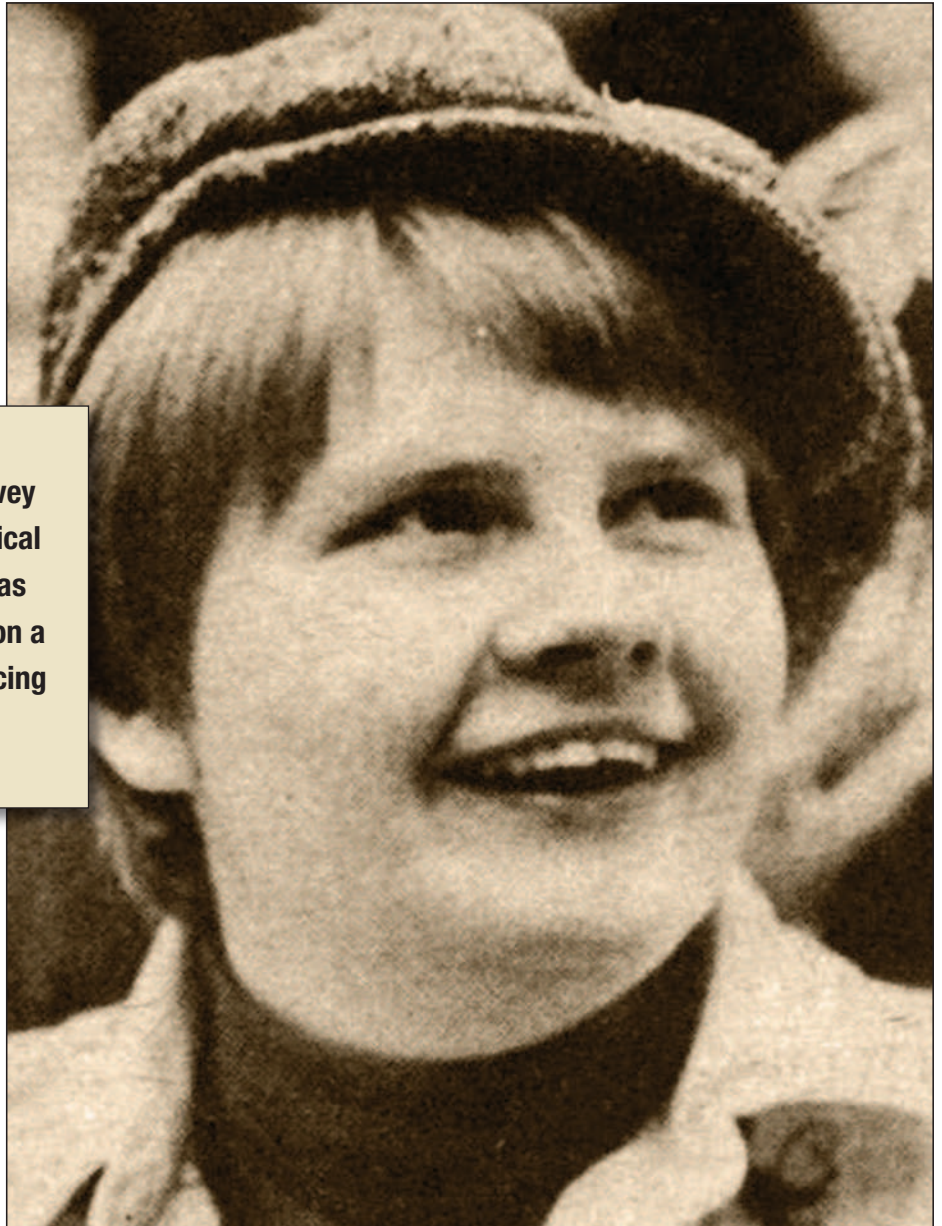
“It is clear that they [Ann Arbor City Council members] don’t ever plan to enforce complaints under sexual preference.”

Kathy Kozachenko was the first openly gay person to be elected to a public office in the United States. In 1974 she was elected as a Human Rights Party candidate to the City Council of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

In the early 1970s only 10 cities in the United States had laws specific to homosexual rights. Most of these pertained either to housing or public employment. Ann Arbor was an exception. The city had enacted a human rights ordinance that protected homosexuals in both housing and employment. Kozachenko ran on a platform that the law had not been enforced. When the city refused to prosecute a restaurant manager who had allegedly separated two women who were dancing together, homosexuals in the town rallied. Said Kozachenko, “It is clear that they [City Council members] don’t ever plan to enforce complaints under sexual preference.”

Kozachenko won against a Democratic contender by 43 votes. She was the first to prove that an openly gay person could run for and be elected to public office. Kozachenko helped pave the way for Harvey Milk, who was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977.

Three years before Harvey Milk’s well-known political victory, Kozachenko was elected to public office on a platform aimed at enforcing homosexual rights.



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ARMISTEAD MAUPIN

b. May 13, 1944, Washington, D.C.

AUTHOR

“Being gay has taught me tolerance, compassion and humility.”

Maupin chafes at the term “gay writer”; his goal is to explore the human condition and LGBT characters in the context of the world at large.

Armistead Maupin ranks among the most celebrated authors of the LGBT experience.

To many in Maupin’s hometown of Raleigh, North Carolina—including Maupin’s one-time employer, the segregationist Senator Jesse Helms—homosexuality was even more blasphemous than racial integration. Maupin recounted about Helms, “Homosexuality, he told me, was the most heinous sin a man could commit. I nodded dutifully and kept my mouth shut.”

San Francisco, however, was a very different story. The city inspired Maupin to give voice to the unspeakable. In 1974 he debuted the first chapter of his seminal work, “Tales of the City.” Originally published serially in a neighborhood newspaper, “Tales of the City” was picked up by the San Francisco Chronicle, where it was syndicated and gained an avid nationwide following.

Maupin was among the first to feature open LGBT literary characters in affirming roles. “Tales of the City” revolves around a group of tenants of 28 Barbary Lane. The tenants strive to forge a family in spite of rejection, loneliness and confusion. As the AIDS epidemic emerged in the 1980s, Maupin introduced one of the first HIV-positive characters who had an otherwise full life.

Despite his watershed inclusion of LGBT personalities, Maupin feels conflicted about being labeled a gay writer. His goal has been to include LGBT characters and their humanity in the broader framework of society. Because he dared to speak the unspeakable, his fictional family provided a voice and inspiration to those who never thought they would belong.



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CECE MCDONALD

b. May 26, 1989, Chicago, Illinois

TRANSGENDER ACTIVIST

“I felt like they wanted me to hate myself as a trans woman.”

CeCe McDonald is a transgender prison-reform activist. While on her way to the grocery store with friends, she encountered a drunken group outside of a bar. Seeing McDonald and her friends, the group began taunting them with racial, homophobic and transphobic slurs. After taking a stance that their hate speech would not be tolerated, McDonald was assaulted with a shattered drinking glass across the face. The attack perforated her cheek and lacerated her salivary gland.

McDonald defended herself against a second assailant with fabric shears, the only weapon she had. The assailant died.

McDonald was arrested and imprisoned. After two months in prison, she finally received care for her wounds.

Experiencing the inhumane treatment of prisoners firsthand, McDonald began speaking out against the criminal justice system. “Prisons aren’t safe for anyone, and that’s the key issue,” she said. For McDonald, the issue of safety included her status as a transgender female in a men’s prison. Transgender prisoners were assigned to prisons based on their sex at birth rather than their gender identity. The penal system frequently placed them in solitary confinement—a psychologically debilitating isolation—purportedly for the safety of the individual. The experience served to strengthen McDonald’s character and establish her resolve to become a transgender leader. “Free CeCe,” a documentary about her experiences, focused on the issue of violence against trans women of color.

While incarcerated for killing an assailant in self-defense, McDonald suffered inhumane treatment that impelled her to become a prison-reform activist.



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FREDDIE MERCURY

b. September 5, 1946, Zanzibar, Tanzania

d. November 21, 1991, London, England

ROCK STAR

“Success has brought me world idolization and millions of pounds. But it has prevented me from having the one thing we all need, a loving, ongoing relationship.”

**Mercury's operatic
“Bohemian
Rhapsody” became
on of the best-selling
singles of all time.**

Freddie Mercury ranks among the most sensational rock 'n' roll vocalists in history. He was one of the leading musicians, record producers and songwriters of the 1980s.

Born Farrokh Bulsara to Parsi parents, Mercury was a British citizen who spent his childhood in India. At age 7, he began to study piano. When he was 8, he matriculated to an all-boys school near Bombay (now Mumbai). While enrolled there, he adopted the name “Freddie” and formed a band, the Hectics. In his teens, he moved with his family to Middlesex, England.

When he was 24, Mercury, with guitarist Brian May and percussionist Roger Taylor, formed Queen. Mercury designed the crest of the band, which features the zodiac signs of all the band

members, a ribbon circled in the form of a Q and a phoenix symbolizing continual rebirth.

Mercury's unique musical style blended pop, disco, rockabilly, and operatic influences. He wrote many of Queen's most popular songs, including “Another One Bites the Dust,” “Crazy Little Thing Called Love,” “We Are the Champions” and his elaborate masterpiece, “Bohemian Rhapsody.”

Mercury was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the Songwriters Hall of Fame and the UK Music Hall of Fame. He ranks 18 on Rolling Stone magazine's list of 100 greatest singers of all time. “Bohemian Rhapsody,” one of the best-selling singles of all time, was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 2004.

Mercury died at 44 of AIDS-related illness.



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JOHN CAMERON MITCHELL

b. April 21, 1963, El Paso, Texas

ACTOR AND DIRECTOR

“Rock and roll and theatre and drag are all the same thing. They’re ways to remind yourself that you’re not alone.”

Mitchell’s landmark gender-bending musical, “Hedwig and the Angry Inch,” finds its soul in some of its creator’s own experience.

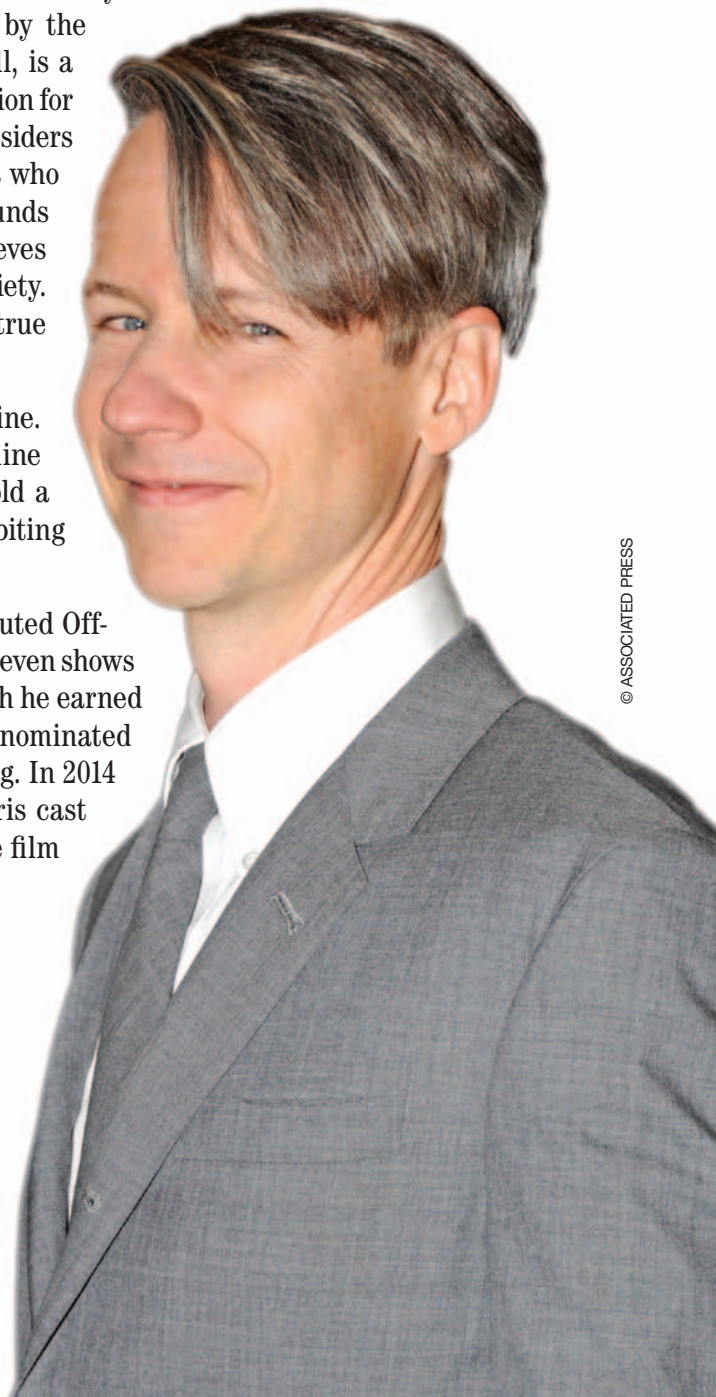
John Cameron Mitchell is best known for writing, directing and starring in the cult classic film “Hedwig and the Angry Inch.”

While the story of Hedwig is not autobiographical, the sexually ambiguous character—the lead singer in a fictional rock band—does share some traits with her creator. Like Hedwig, who is from East Germany and spent her youth craving the freedom of the West, Mitchell used to visit his military father in Berlin and became haunted by the Berlin wall. Hedwig, like Mitchell, is a performer with an insatiable passion for the stage. Both are perennial outsiders making their own way—idealists who transcend labels. Hedwig confounds

male and female identities and Mitchell is an out gay man who believes gays are on the verge of selling out as they assimilate into society. Hedwig and Mitchell teach us to distrust appearances because true character comes from the inside out.

In 2008 Mitchell established a New York nightclub called Mattachine. It was located at Julius, the nation’s oldest known gay bar. Mattachine was an homage to activists who convened at Julius in 1966 to hold a “sip-in” protest of the State Liquor Authority’s regulation prohibiting bartenders from serving homosexuals.

In 1998 Mitchell’s rock musical, “Hedwig and the Angry Inch,” debuted Off-Broadway and won an Obie Award. Mitchell played the lead role for seven shows a week. In 2001 he directed and starred in the film version, for which he earned the Best Director Award at the Sundance Film Festival and was nominated for a Golden Globe for Best Actor. The film garnered a cult following. In 2014 a revival of “Hedwig” opened on Broadway with Neil Patrick Harris cast in the leading role. Mitchell also wrote, directed and produced the film “Shortbus” and directed “Rabbit Hole,” starring Nicole Kidman.



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FRANK OCEAN

b. October 28, 1987, Long Beach, California

SINGER AND SONGWRITER

“There’s just some magic in truth and honesty and openness.”

Ocean changed the face of hip-hop when he came out publicly just before the release of his highly successful second album.

In 2012 critically acclaimed singer and songwriter Frank Ocean changed the face of hip-hop when he came out two days prior to the release of his second album, “Channel Orange.” The album shot to number two on the Billboard charts.

Born Christopher Breaux in Long Beach, California, Ocean spent most of his childhood in New Orleans. His father left when Ocean was 6 years old. His song “There Will Be Tears” chronicles the pain of that abandonment. Ocean describes his childhood as solitary. He was expelled from every school he attended.

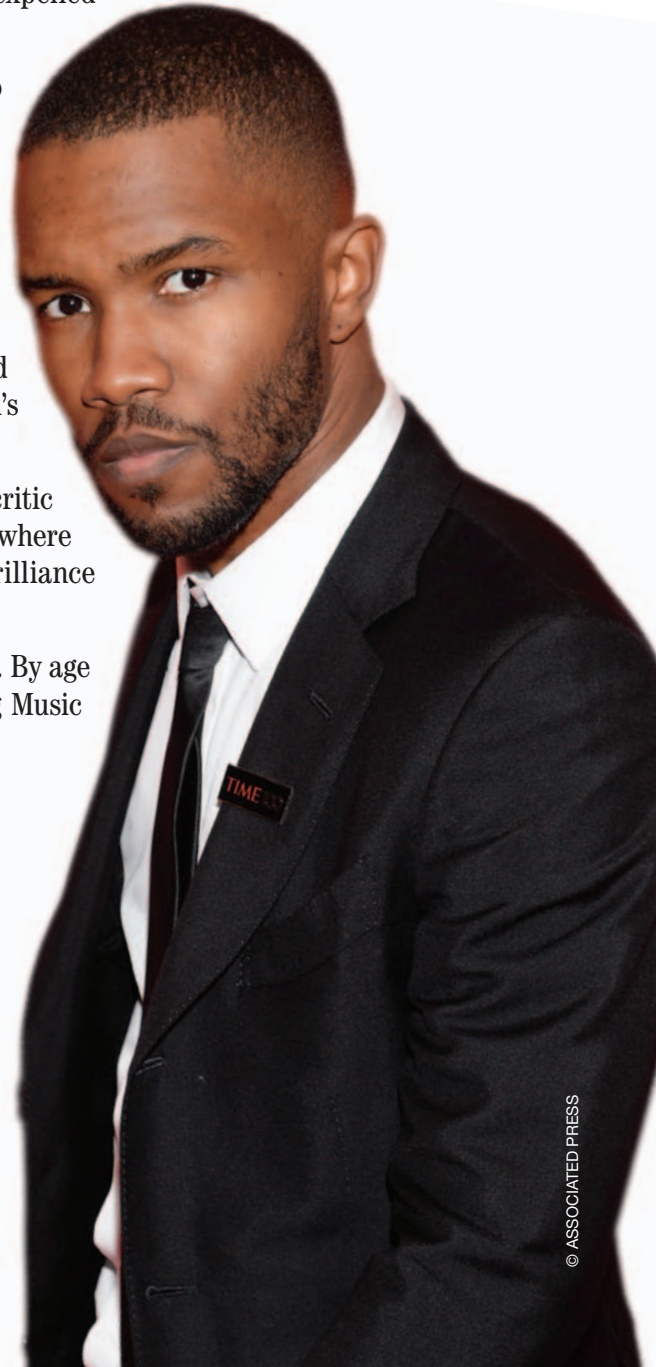
Ocean buckled down just enough to finish high school. He went on to study English at the University of

New Orleans. When a friend offered him time in a Los Angeles recording studio, Ocean jumped at the chance.

In Los Angeles, Ocean wrote tracks for Justin Bieber and John Legend and joined the celebrated hip-hop collective, Odd Future. After a deal with recording studio Def Jam fell through, Ocean independently released his first solo album, “Nostalgia.” As the album generated buzz, Def Jam’s new chief executive convinced Ocean to sign with the label.

Commenting on Ocean’s debut studio album, “Channel Orange,” music critic Alexis Petridis wrote: “Perhaps this is R&B’s Ziggy Stardust moment, where the controversy and publicity surrounding an artist’s sexuality and the brilliance of his latest album combine to give his career unstoppable momentum.”

Ocean has collaborated with artists like Jay-Z, Kanye West and Beyonce. By age 26, his awards included GQ’s Rookie of the Year, GLAAD’s Outstanding Music Artist and a Grammy for Best Urban Contemporary Album.



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MEGAN RAPINOE

b. July 5, 1985, Redding, California

OLYMPIC SOCCER PLAYER

“Your personal life is less about people having to know about your sexuality than standing up for what’s right and fighting for equality.”

**When she came out,
Rapinoe said she
became a better
soccer player.**

In 2012 professional soccer player Megan Rapinoe came out publicly two weeks before she was to play for the women’s soccer team in the London Olympics. “I feel like sports in general are still homophobic in the sense that not a lot of people are out,” she said. “I feel everyone is really craving [for] people to come out. People want—they need—to see that there are people like me playing soccer for the good ol’ U.S. of A.”

Being closeted made Rapinoe feel inauthentic. It was her desire to do the right thing, to “stand up for what’s right and to fight for equality.” She said that when she came out she became a better player. In the Olympic Games, she scored three goals and logged four assists, helping her team win the gold medal.

“I’d like to help create more tolerance and acceptance across the board,” Rapinoe asserted. That means more people talking about it, more people coming out and, at the end of the day, making less of a massive deal about being gay. I’d like to see homosexuality become something that’s just normal to everyone.”



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LOU SULLIVAN

b. June 16, 1951, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

d. March 2, 1991, San Francisco, California

TRANSGENDER ACTIVIST

“My problem is that I can’t accept life for what it is. I feel that there is something deep and wonderful underneath it.”

Sullivan successfully advocated for homosexuality to be removed from the list of contraindications for transition surgery.

Born Sheila in a Midwestern Catholic household, Sullivan recorded in a childhood diary the joy of “playing boys.” As a teenager, Sullivan was fascinated by male homosexuality. “I want to look like what I am, but I don’t know what someone like me looks like,” she recalled. When Sullivan began to identify as a transgender gay man, the prospects were daunting: “What can become of a girl whose real desire and passion is with male homosexuals?”

Standing at the threshold of an uncertain new world, Sullivan took the first step by adopting the identity of a female transvestite. After moving to San Francisco, Sullivan took the first name Lou, lived as a gay man, identified as a female-to-male (FTM) transsexual and medically transitioned to a gender-confirming male body.

When Sullivan was initially denied transition surgery due to his homosexual orientation, he publicly advocated for homosexuality to be removed from the list of contraindications. The successful campaign provided a breakthrough in widespread acknowledgment of the difference between sexual orientation and gender identity.

Sullivan became a peer counselor for gender-questioning women and corresponded with FTMs nationwide. He helped create the GLBT Historical Society of San Francisco and FTM, the first exclusively female-to-male organization.

Sullivan remained an outspoken transgender activist until his death from AIDS at age 39.



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SYLVESTER

b. September 6, 1947, Los Angeles, California

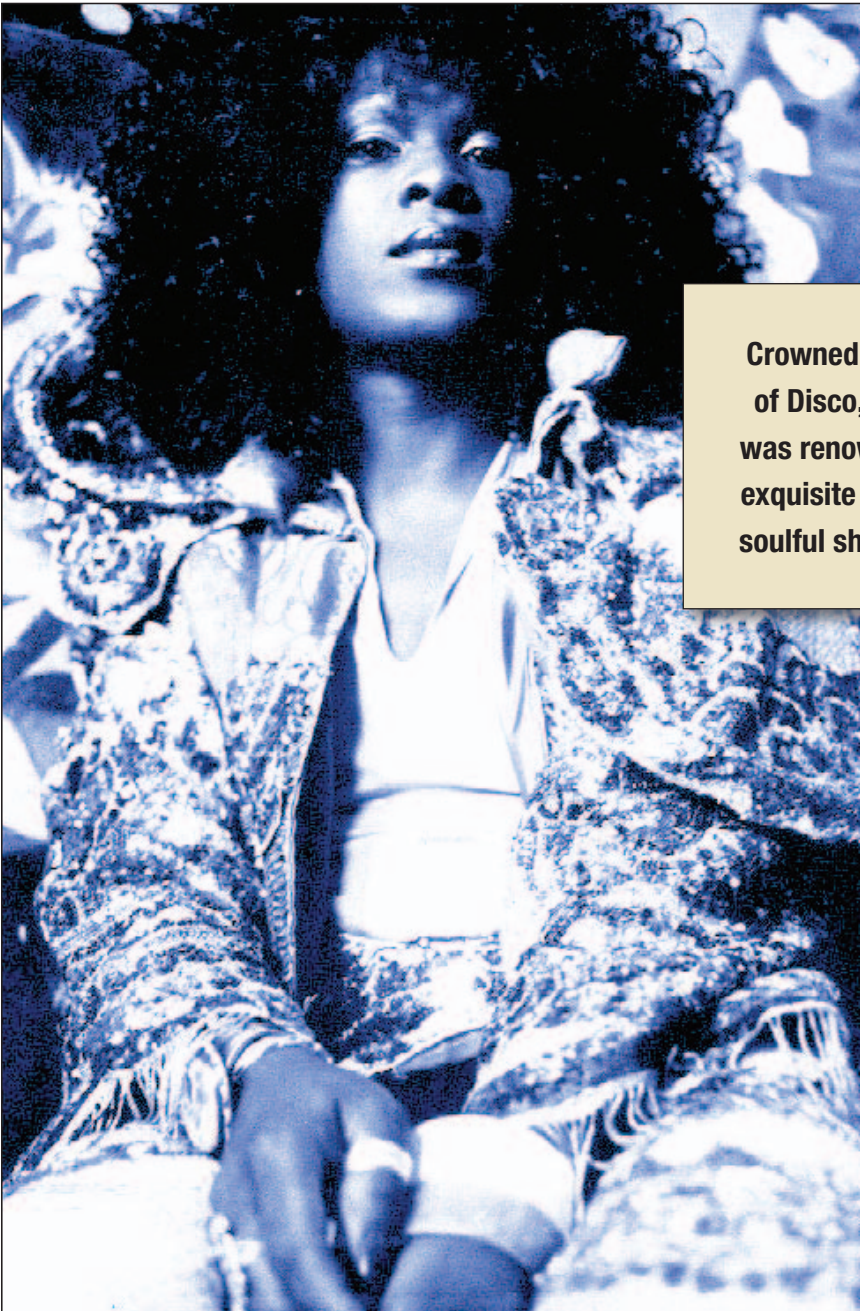
d. December 16, 1988, San Francisco, California

SINGER

*My mother said, “You’re very strange,”
and I said, “That’s OK.”*

Before he became “Sylvester” and before he was crowned the “Queen of Disco,” Sylvester James Jr. was a member of a group of transvestites known as the Disquotays. While many Disquotays explored their identities as trans women in a cross-dressing party circuit, Sylvester identified as male.

After the dissolution of the Disquotays, Sylvester joined the Cockettes, a San Francisco drag theater troupe. While Sylvester appreciated the open lifestyle of the Cockettes, he maintained a distance from their psychedelic performances.



Crowned the “Queen of Disco,” Sylvester was renowned for his exquisite falsetto and soulful showmanship.

After the Cockettes, Sylvester—known by his first name only—struck out on a solo career. Songs like “You Make Me Feel (Mighty Real)” and “Dance (Disco Heat)” made it to the top of the pop music charts. Sylvester became renowned for his exquisite falsetto and soulful showmanship.

When Joan Rivers called him a drag queen, a peeved Sylvester corrected her, declaring, “I’m Sylvester!” A critic of conformity, Sylvester decried Castro clones—gay men who idealized masculine attire and scorned flamboyance.

Sylvester was vocal about LGBT issues, especially AIDS awareness and prevention. He wrote songs about AIDS and held AIDS benefit concerts. At age 41, he died from complications of AIDS.

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