



GLBT
Historical
Society
museum & archives

March 2, 2021

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April LGBTQ History Programs Highlight Bay Area Reporter, José Sarria, Lesbian Narratives, Queer Poetry

San Francisco — The program series for April 2021 sponsored by the GLBT Historical Society will highlight the 50th anniversary of the *Bay Area Reporter*, a discussion and film screening about José Sarria, academic and archival projects exploring lesbian narratives, and new queer poetry. All events take place online; registration is required for access to the streaming link. For more information, visit www.glbthistory.org.

Living History Discussion

The Bay Area Reporter at 50: Writing the First Draft of LGBTQ History

Friday, April 2

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Online program

Admission: free; \$5 suggested donation

For a half-century, the *Bay Area Reporter* (BAR) has provided coverage of San Francisco and the Bay Area's LGBTQ community. In this special discussion commemorating the 50th anniversary of the publication that has become the community's newspaper of record, a group of activists, writers and culture-makers will recount their relationship to the BAR and its history. The panel will be moderated by Terry Beswick, executive director of the GLBT Historical Society, and panelists include Gwen Smith, "Transmission" columnist for the BAR; Hank Plante, an award-winning, veteran Bay Area journalist; Paul Henderson, executive director of the San Francisco Department of Police Accountability (SFDPA); Marga Gomez, an award-winning Latinx performer and comic; Sharon McNight, a Tony-nominated singer and performer; and Michael Yamashita, the BAR's publisher. More information is available at <http://bit.ly/2Zw2vzd>. Ticket are available at <http://bit.ly/3ub9mw1>.

Queer Culture Club

Joe Castel Discusses José Sarria

Thursday, April 8

7:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

Online program

Admission: free; \$5 suggested donation

GLBT Historical Society Executive Director Terry Beswick will interview director, producer, screenwriter and playwright Joe Castel, whose body of work explores Latinx and LGBTQ history and identity. Castel will also discuss his newest documentary, *Nelly Queen: The Life and Times of José Sarria* (2020), which will be screened following the interview (see the separate event listing). This is the April installment of “Queer Culture Club,” our monthly series each second Thursday that focuses on LGBTQ people who are defining the queer culture of yesterday, today and tomorrow. Each month, Beswick interviews queer culture-makers, including authors, playwrights, historians, activists, artists and archivists, to learn about their work, process, inspirations, hopes and dreams. Note: the discussion and the film screening are ticketed as two separate events, so attendees should register for each event if they wish to attend both. More information is available at <http://bit.ly/2PfyvFt>. Tickets are available at <http://bit.ly/3uitLiM>.

Film Screening

Nelly Queen: The Life & Times of José Sarria

Thursday, April 8

8:00 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

Admission: \$10, free for members

Join us for a special screening of director, producer, screenwriter and playwright Joe Castel’s new documentary film *Nelly Queen: The Life and Times of José Sarria* (2020). An intimate look at an extraordinary man, the film documents Sarria’s life, starting with his performances at the North Beach establishment the Black Cat Café in the 1950s, to his historic run for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1961 (becoming the first openly gay person to run for political office in the U.S.), to his founding of the Imperial Court System in 1964. Alternating historical footage with bittersweet revelatory interviews, the film shows “how a marginalized outcast fought unjust laws and united an often fractured community by giving them a political and social identity,” as the *Bay Area Reporter* wrote in its review. The film is preceded at 7:00 by a discussion with Castel (see the separate event listing). Registrants can watch the screening live at 8:00 p.m. or enjoy the recording up to four days after the screening date. Note: the discussion and the film screening are ticketed as two separate events, so attendees should register for each event if they wish to attend both. More information is available at <http://bit.ly/2ZysBBW>. Tickets are available at <http://bit.ly/3qBNDex>.

Panel Discussion

Archiving Lesbian Memories, Stewarding Lesbian Futures

Friday, April 16

6:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

Admission: Free, \$5 suggested donation

In honor of Lesbian Visibility Day, a panel of scholars in fields ranging from geography and communication to English and archival studies will introduce four different projects that focus on caring for lesbian herstories, ideas and stories. What narratives, forms of community, ideas about space and experiences of sexuality are most visible, and how can practices like archiving, anthologizing, mapping and researching shift these terms? Panelists Shawn(ta) Smith-Cruz, Jen Jack Giesecking, Cait McKinney and Briona

Simone-Jones will draw connections among these projects to think about the stories we can bring to imagining lesbian herstories and futures. More information is available at <http://bit.ly/2ZKj9v8>. Tickets are available at <http://bit.ly/3dI7IMP>.

Artist Talk

The God of San Francisco: Queer History Through Poetry

Friday, April 23

6:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

Admission: free, \$5 suggested donation

In honor of National Poetry Month in April, poet James J. Siegel will read excerpts from his new poetry collection *The God of San Francisco* (Sibling Rivalry Press, 2020), a poetic exploration of San Francisco's queer history from the North Beach drag scene to Twin Peaks Tavern in the Castro, from the triumphant election of Harvey Milk to the devastating HIV/AIDS epidemic. Siegel will be joined by queer poets Natasha Dennerstein, Dazié Grego-Sykes, Baruch Porrás-Hernández and Jacques J. Rancourt who will read their own poetry that explores our personal connections to LGBTQ history, our queer ancestors and the ongoing fight for equality. More information is available at <http://bit.ly/3uDf1eu>. Tickets are available at <http://bit.ly/3pGmWnD>.

ABOUT THE GLBT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The GLBT Historical Society is a public history center and archives that collects, preserves and interprets the history of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and the communities that support them. Founded in 1985, the society maintains one of the world's largest collections of LGBTQ historical materials. For more information, visit www.glbthistory.org.

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GRAPHICS

The following images may be reproduced only in association with coverage of the GLBT Historical Society program series. Credits noted in captions are mandatory.

April 2: Living History Discussion — BAR



**THE BAY AREA REPORTER
AT 50:
Writing the First Draft of
LGBTQ History**

FRIDAY, APRIL 2 6:00 PM PT

50

The BAY AREA REPORTER



Headshots of Marga Gomez, Paul David Henderson, Sharon McNight, Hank Plante, Gwen Smith, Michael Yamashita and Terry Beswick courtesy of same.

April 8: Queer Culture Club — Joe Castel

QUEER

Culture Club



Thursday, April 8
7:00 pm PST

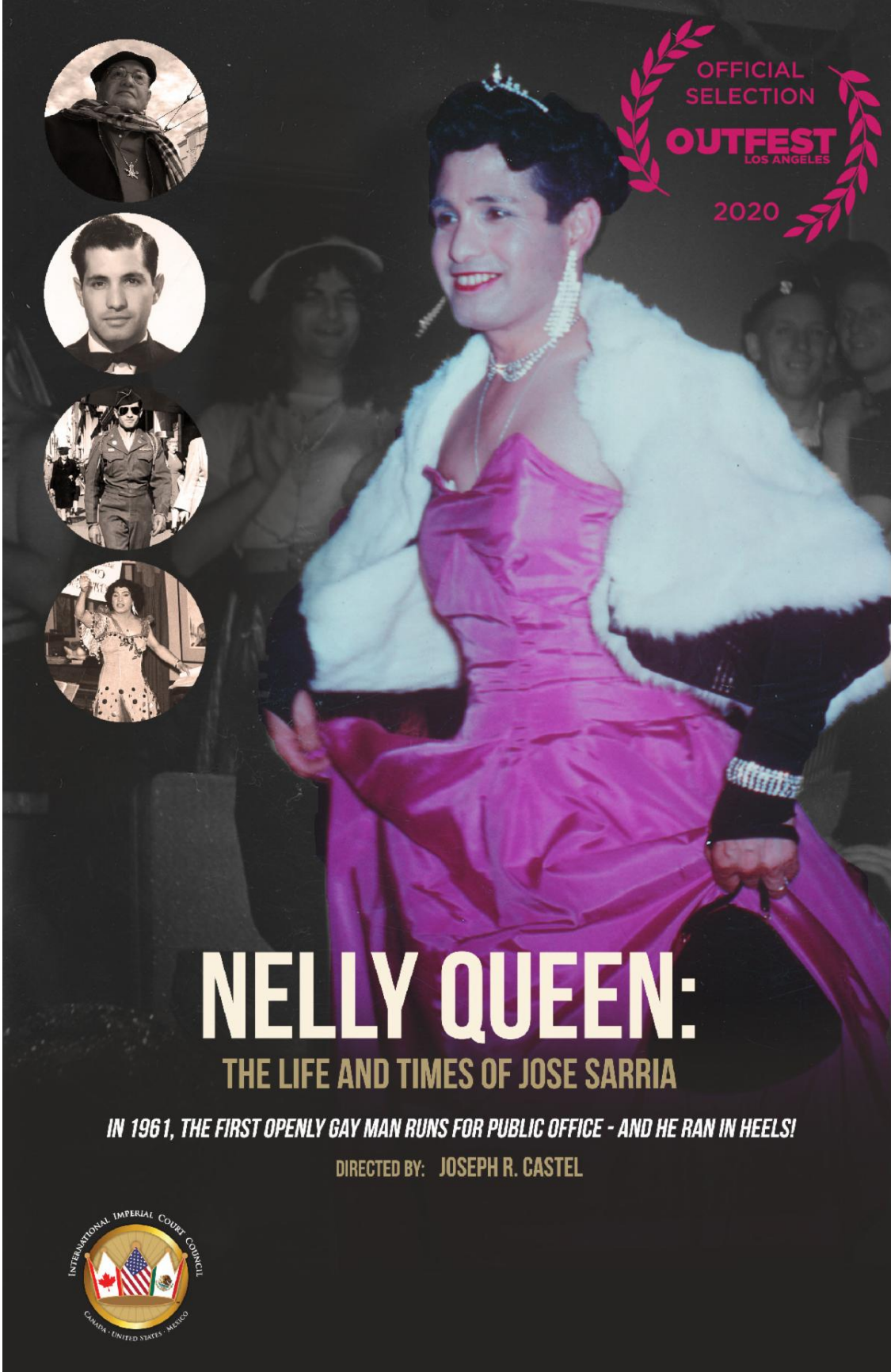
FEATURING:

JOE CASTEL



Portrait of Joe Castel courtesy of same.

April 8: Film Screening — Nelly Queen



NELLY QUEEN:

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JOSE SARRIA

IN 1961, THE FIRST OPENLY GAY MAN RUNS FOR PUBLIC OFFICE - AND HE RAN IN HEELS!

DIRECTED BY: JOSEPH R. CASTEL



Poster image for *Nelly Queen: The Life and Times of Jose Sarria* courtesy of Joe Castel.

April 16: Panel Discussion — Lesbian Narratives

ARCHIVING LESBIAN MEMORY, STEWARDED LESBIAN FUTURES



Shawn(ta) Smith-Cruz



Jen Jack Giesecking



Cait McKinney



Briona Simone Jones



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Fri, April 16
6:00 PM PT

Photo of Jen Jack Giesecking courtesy of CC-BY University of Kentucky. Photo of Cait McKinney by Hedia Maron. Photo of Shawnta Smith-Cruz by Erin Burns.

April 23: Artist Talk — Queer History Through Poetry



James Siegel



Natasha Dennerstein



Baruch Porrás-Hernández



Dazié Grego-Sykes



Jacques J. Rancourt



The God of San Francisco: Queer History Through Poetry

Friday, April 23
6:00 pm PT

Detail of *The God of San Francisco* book cover, courtesy of James J. Siegel; portrait of James J. Siegel by Desi Tafoya; portrait of Natasha Dennerstein by Jose Alberto Guzman Colon; portrait of Baruch Porrás-Hernández by Fabian Echevarria; portrait of Dazié Grego-Sykes by Bethanie Hines; portrait of Jacques J. Rancourt by PhotosJustSo.

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