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MEDIA RELEASE

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September LGBTQ History Programs Highlight the Gay Games, Our Family Coalition Executive Director Mimi Demissew, Rainbow Flag

San Francisco — The program series for September 2021 sponsored by the GLBT Historical Society will highlight film footage of the Gay Games; an interview with Mimi Demissew, the executive director of Our Family Coalition; and the GLBT Historical Society’s recent acquisition of a segment of one of the original 1978 rainbow flags. All events take place online; registration is required for access to the video link. For more information, visit www.glbthistory.org.

Mighty Reels

Body and Soul: Footage of the Gay Games

Friday, September 3

6:00–7:30 p.m. PDT

Online program

Admission: free, \$5 suggested donation

Right off the heels of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, this installment in our program series “Mighty Reels” will focus on remarkable film footage from the first few gatherings of the Gay Games. This worldwide competition for LGBTQ athletes first took place in San Francisco in 1982. Patterned after the Olympics and now held every four years in a different city, the Gay Games were originally called the Gay Olympics until a lawsuit filed by the International Olympic Committee—just weeks before the event—began forced a last-minute name change. In its early years, which overlapped with the worst years of the AIDS crisis, the Games’ mission of celebrating LGBTQ sports achievement and the queer body was especially vital. Today the Games remain a significant athletic and cultural event providing queer athletes from around the world a joyous forum to excel.

Highlighting home movies, drag performances, amateur documentaries, and interviews with queer history-makers, “Mighty Reels” is a quarterly program series that provides an intimate look at the LGBTQ past straight from the camera lens. Each program in the series features a screening of footage from the archives, followed by a discussion with historians, community members and activists on the significance of these images. More information is available at <https://bit.ly/3i7M6ev>. Tickets are available at <https://bit.ly/3iT4mYc>.

Queer Culture Club

Catching Up With Mimi Demissew

Thursday, September 9

7:00–7:30 p.m. PDT

Online program

Admission: free, \$5 suggested donation

GLBT Historical Society executive director Terry Beswick will interview Mimi Demissew, the recently appointed executive director of Our Family Coalition. Demissew has an extensive background in organizational development and strategic planning, having dedicated over two decades to sexual and gender-minority advocacy in the Washington, D.C. area. This is the September 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. More information is available at <https://bit.ly/2TJEt4I>. Tickets are available at <https://bit.ly/2Ve2AsH>.

Panel Discussion

Under the Rainbow: How History is Made

Thursday, September 16

6:00–7:00 p.m. PDT

Online program

Admission: free, \$5 suggested donation

From books and movies to museum exhibitions and art installations, we are continually interacting with objects from history. Many people are unfamiliar with the behind-the-scenes work that takes place to authenticate, contextualize and present a single object for display, work that can take months or even years. In this event, a panel of experts will focus on the original 1978 rainbow flag, a fragment of which was recently discovered and is now on display at the GLBT Historical Society Museum. Panelists will dive into the segment’s origins and long journey home, providing a look behind the curtain and under the rainbow in a program that considers how history is made, from discovery to display. The event will include a brief Q&A; guests are encouraged to submit questions in advance. Send questions to info@glbthistory.org with “Under the Rainbow event” in the subject line. More information is available at <https://bit.ly>

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ABOUT THE GLBT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The GLBT Historical Society is a public history center and archives that collects, preserves, exhibits and makes accessible to the public materials and knowledge to support and promote understanding of LGBTQ history, culture and arts in all their diversity. Founded in 1985, the society is recognized internationally as a leader in the field of queer public history and maintains one of the world's largest archival collections of LGBTQ historical materials. Our operations are centered at two sites: the GLBT Historical Society Museum, located in the heart of San Francisco's Castro neighborhood; and the Dr. John P. De Cecco Archives and Research Center, open to researchers in the Mid-Market district. For more information, visit www.glbthistory.org.

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.

Mighty Reels 9/3



**Body & Soul:
The Gay Games**

Friday, September 3
6:00 p.m. PT

MIGHTY
REELS

Man and woman with medals on the field, 1986 Gay Games; six men embracing from the back, 1986 Gay Games; athletes at Opening Ceremony, 1986 Gay Games; all photographs by Robert Pruzan, Robert Pruzan collection (1998-36), GLBT Historical Society.

Queer Culture Club 9/9



QUEER
Culture Club

FEATURING:
MIMI DEMISSEW

Thursday, September 9
7:00 p.m. PT

In conversation with
Terry Beswick

A promotional graphic for a Queer Culture Club event. On the left, a vintage typewriter is shown with a rainbow-colored paper strip emerging from it. The text 'QUEER Culture Club' is positioned above the typewriter. To the right, a circular headshot of Mimi Demissew, a woman with dark curly hair and glasses, is displayed. The background is a light purple and blue gradient with faint, stylized human figures. The event details 'FEATURING: MIMI DEMISSEW' and 'Thursday, September 9 7:00 p.m. PT' are prominently displayed in the center. At the bottom left, it says 'In conversation with Terry Beswick'.

Headshot of Mimi Demissew, courtesy of same.

Panel Discussion 9/16



**Under the Rainbow:
How History is Made**

Thursday, September 16
6:00 p.m. PDT

A promotional graphic for a panel discussion. The background is a photograph of a large, arched rainbow flag hanging from a building against a blue sky with white clouds. The flag's colors are blue, green, yellow, orange, red, and purple. A semi-transparent white circle is overlaid on the bottom center of the image, containing the event title and date. The text 'Under the Rainbow: How History is Made' is in a large, bold, black font, and 'Thursday, September 16 6:00 p.m. PDT' is in a smaller, bold, black font below it.

A segment from one of the two original rainbow flags created for San Francisco Gay Freedom Day 1978, donated to the GLBT Historical Society in April 2021; photograph by Matthew Leifheit, courtesy of the Gilbert Baker Foundation.

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