

The Museum of Modern Art

“Now We Think as We Fuck”: Queer Liberation to Activism

January 28, 2020-February 5, 2020

The Roy and Niuta Titus Theaters

Screening Schedule

Portrait of Jason. 1967. USA. Directed by Shirley Clarke. 103min. 35mm.

A stuffy room at The Chelsea Hotel is the stage for Jason Holliday and his profound discourses on sexuality, race, and class.

Tues, Jan 28, 7:00pm T2

Sun, Feb 2, 4:00pm T2

Warhol, Willard, Sonbert and Anger: Queer Before Stonewall

Amphetamine. 1966. Warren Sonbert. 10min. 16mm.

My Hustler. 1965. Andy Warhol. 76min. 16mm.

Kustom Kar Kommandos. 1965. Kenneth Anger. 3min. 16mm.

Leather Narcissus. 1968. Avery Willard. 28min. 16mm.

Sonbert’s *Amphetamine* takes us from one-to-one-hundred in seconds; Warhol presides over the diatribes of *My Hustler*; Anger ratchets up the testosterone in the sumptuous *Kustom Kar Kommandos*; and Renaissance man Avery Willard follows Anger’s sexually suggestive images to their logical conclusion in *Leather Narcissus*.

Wed, Jan 29, 4:00pm T2

Sun, Feb 2, 1:00pm T2

Body and Soul: Barbara Hammer and Su Friedrich

Moon Goddess. Barbara Hammer. 1975. 13min. 16mm.

Cool Hands, Warm Heart. 1979. Su Friedrich. 16min. 16mm.

Sanctus. 1990. Barbara Hammer. 18min. 16mm.

First Comes Love. 1991. Su Friedrich. 21min. 16mm.

Hammer’s surreal, joyous *Moon Goddess* features Gloria Churchman as a spiritual guide through natural California. Friedrich’s *Cool Hands, Warm Heart* is a pointed critique of voyeurism and spectacle in which women perform traditionally private routines on public stages in crowded streets. *Sanctus* is Hammer’s visually astonishing re-visitation of the filmic X-ray work of Dr. James Sibley Watson. *First Comes Love* is Friedrich’s very early and vital work for the marriage equality movement.

Wed, Jan 29, 7:00pm T2 (Followed by a discussion with Su Friedrich)

Wed, Feb 5, 4:30pm T2

Parting Glances. 1986. Bill Sherwood. 90min. 35mm.

A tender isosceles love triangle between a loving gay couple, Robert and Michael, and Michael's former boyfriend, Nick, who lives with HIV (a gaunt Steve Buscemi in his breakout role).

Thurs, Jan 30, 4:00pm T2

Mon, Feb 3, 5:00pm T1

The Sex Garage. 1972. Fred Halsted. 35min. New digital preservation.

L.A. Plays Itself. 1972. Fred Halsted. 51min. New digital preservation.

Halsted's elliptical, evasive anti-narrative begins in the lush greenery of the natural world before being literally bulldozed into the center of a grimy, feverish Sodom that deconstructs and erodes the human spirit through vivid sadomasochistic catharsis. *The Sex Garage* features a very early instance of bisexuality (or "trisexuality" in Halsted's words) infiltrating gay pornography.

Thurs, Jan 30, 6:00pm T2 (Followed by a discussion with William E. Jones)

Sat, Feb 1, 8:00pm T2

Sextool. 1975. Fred Halsted. 80min. New digital preservation.

Halsted's sexually political film establishes visual dialogue between intense BDSM sequences (including with his lover Joe Yale) and trans women and drag queens at an upscale party.

Thurs, Jan 30, 8:00pm T2 (Introduced by William E. Jones)

Sat, Feb 1, 6:00pm T2

Word is Out: Stories of Some of Our Lives. 1977. The Mariposa Film Group. 133min. 35mm.

The Mariposa Film Group assembled one of the greatest collections of queer oral history on record before the AIDS crisis with interviews that span a thoughtful range of prominent queer activists and thinkers.

Fri, Jan 31, 4:00pm T2

Sun, Feb 2, 6:30pm T2

I Wasn't Counted at the March. 1993. Uzi Parnes. 7min. New digital preservation.

Fast Trip, Long Drop. 1993. Gregg Bordowitz. 54min. Digital preservation.

Chance of a Lifetime. 1985. Gay Men's Health Crisis, Inc. 47min. New digital preservation.

Bordowitz's diaristic chronicling of his relationship with his traditional suburban family and the early days of ACT UP is a trove of ethical and moral introspection. Paired with Bordowitz's intimate journal is the unprecedented sexually-explicit videotape *Chance of a Lifetime*, one of the first safer sex educational videos ever produced.

Fri, Jan 31, 7:00pm T2

Wed, Feb 5, 6:30pm T2

Doctors, Liars, and Women: AIDS Activists Say No to Cosmo. 1988. Jean Carlomusto. 23min. Digital preservation.

Thank God I'm a Lesbian. 1992. Laurie Colbert & Dominique Cardona. 56min. 16mm.

Carlomusto's video is a spectacular David and Goliath story that unfolds on the streets of New York as the first action of the Women's Committee in ACT UP takes on *Cosmopolitan* magazine. An effusive, insightful counterpart to Carlomusto's frontline activism, Laurie Colbert and Dominique Cardona create space for lesbians to tell their own story in their exuberant *Thank God I'm a Lesbian*.

Sat, Feb 1, 1:00pm T2

Tues, Feb 4, 7:00pm T2

DiAna's Hair Ego. 1990. Ellen Spiro. 29min. Digital preservation.

Tongues Untied. 1989. Marlon Riggs. 55min. Digital restoration.

Meet DiAna DiAna, a cosmetologist in Columbia, South Carolina, who personally oversees the education of her tight-knit black community on transmission of AIDS and safer sex. Spiro's video is paired with Marlon Riggs' 1989 masterwork and radical manifesto, *Tongues Untied*, in which Riggs and poet Essex Hemphill create a kaleidoscopic image of queer blackness in America.

Sat, Feb 1, 3:30pm T2 (Introduced by Ellen Spiro)

Tues, Feb 4, 4:30pm T2

The Watermelon Woman. 1996. Cheryl Dunye. 90min. DCP.

Deftly providing a lighthearted setting for an urgent investigation into the life of a black actress from the thirties who was typecast (credited only as "the watermelon woman"), Dunye chronicles a vibrant lesbian community that supports and empowers those who belong to it.

Mon, Feb 3, 7:30pm T1