



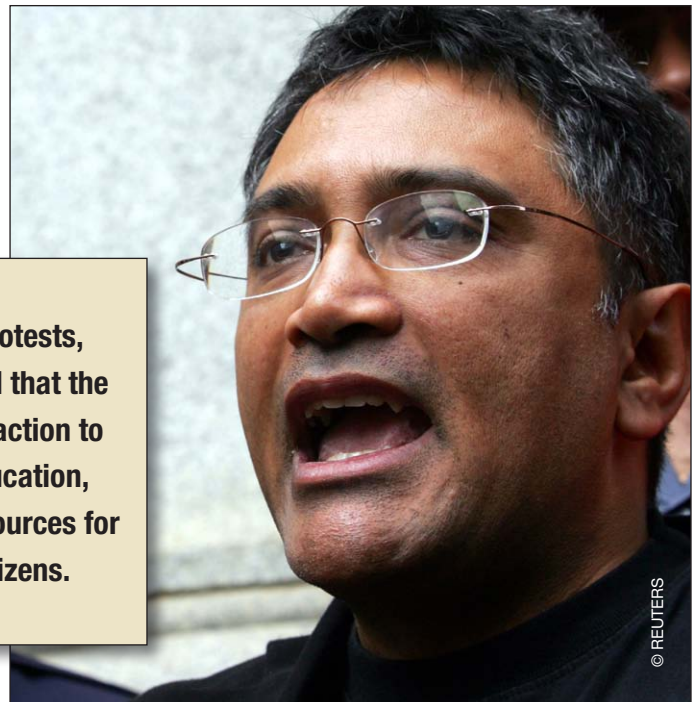
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ZACKIE ACHMAT

b. March 21, 1962

SOUTH AFRICAN ACTIVIST

“The desire to know requires courage, patience and persistence because freedom, dignity and equality depend on it.”



By organizing protests, Achmat demanded that the government take action to provide AIDS education, prevention and resources for HIV-positive citizens.





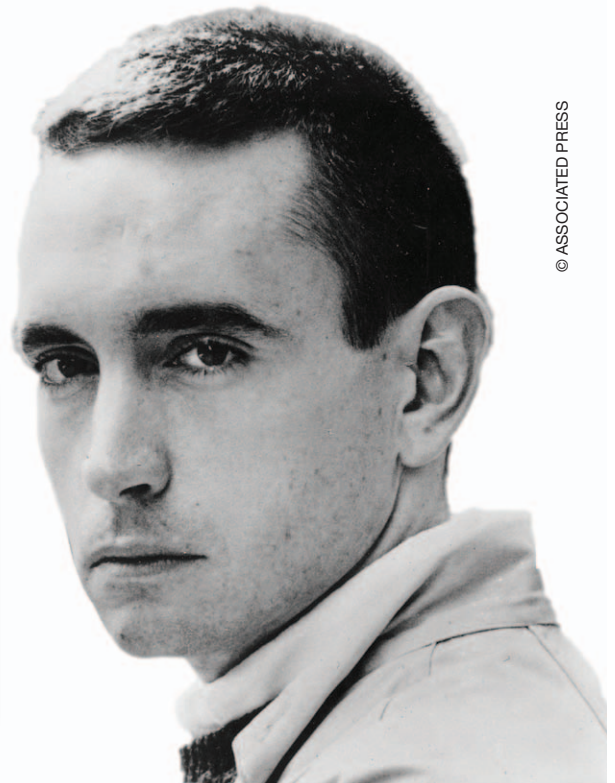
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EDWARD ALBEE

b. March 12, 1928

“I think we should all live on the precipice of life, as fully and as dangerously as possible.”

PLAYWRIGHT



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Albee made his Broadway debut with “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?,” which earned him his first Tony Award.





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GWEN ARAUJO **TRANSGENDER HERO**

b. February 24, 1985

d. October 3, 2002

“Live as though this is your last day.”

Araujo’s murder helped bring awareness to violence against transgender people and the “panic defense.”



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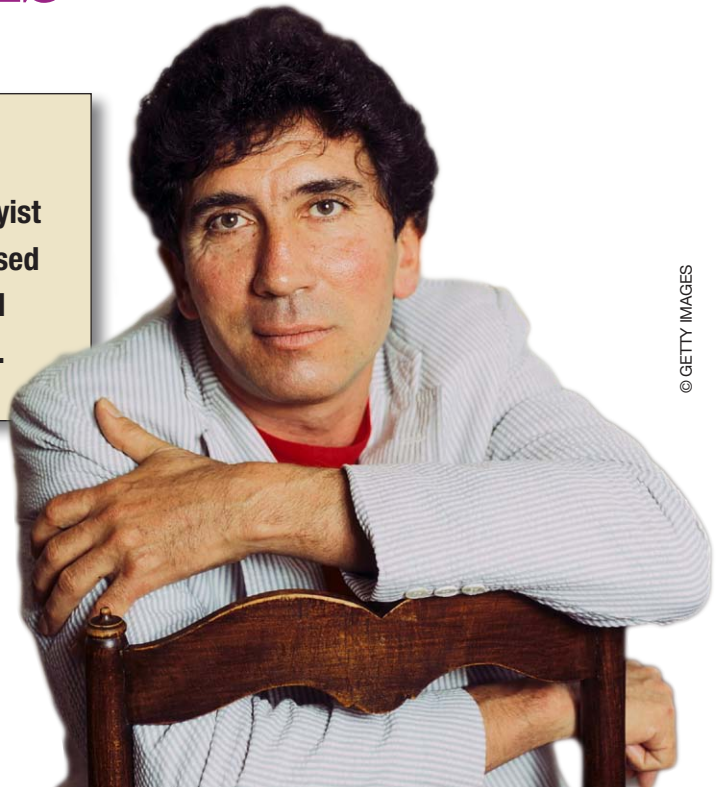
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REINALDO ARENAS CUBAN AUTHOR

b. July 16, 1943
d. December 7, 1990

“If you cannot live the way you want, there is no point in living.”

He was a poet, novelist and essayist whose work focused on political and social injustices.



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AXEL AXGIL

ACTIVIST

b. April 3, 1915
d. October 29, 2011



“We realized the historic significance of what we were doing.”

In 1989, after years of lobbying by the Axgils, Denmark became the first nation to recognize same-sex domestic partnerships.



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DJUNA BARNES

AUTHOR

b. June 12, 1892

d. June 18, 1982

*“The truth is how you say it,
and to be ‘one’s self’ is the
most shocking custom of all.”*



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Writers such as Truman Capote and Bertha Harris have cited Barnes as an inspiration for their works.





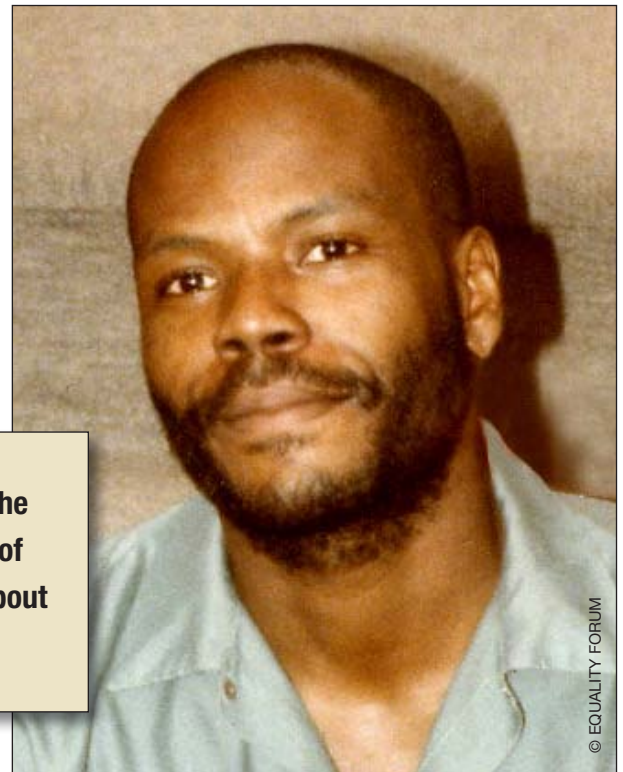
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JOSEPH BEAM

- b. December 30, 1954
- d. December 27, 1988

ACTIVIST

“We are black men who are proudly gay.”



He was the editor of “In the Life,” the first collection of nonfiction works by and about black gay men.



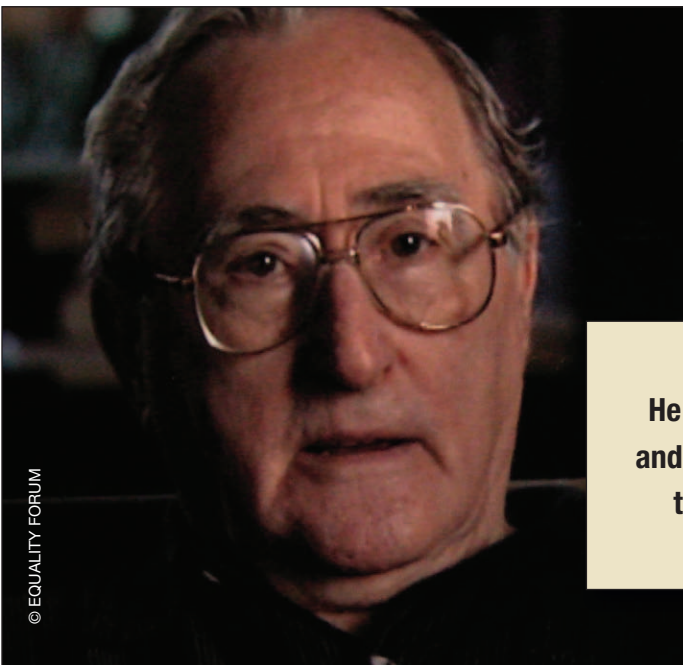


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GAD BECK

HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR

- b. June 30, 1923
- d. June 24, 2012



He helped gays and Jews escape the Nazis.

“Even today we are not liberated. We are just beginning.”

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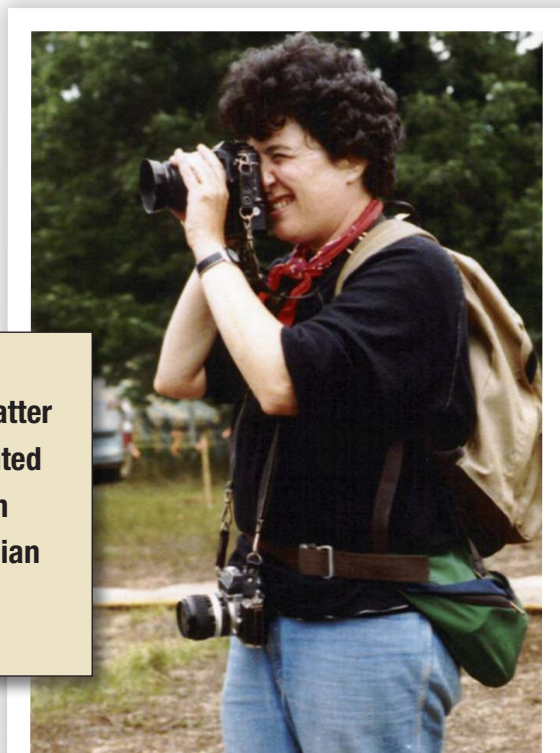
JOAN BIREN

DOCUMENTARIAN

b. July 13, 1944

“My thing was to take pictures to make visible what was invisible.”

Her film “A Simple Matter of Justice” documented the 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.



© JOAN E. BIREN





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PATRICK CALIFIA

b. March 8, 1954

AUTHOR

*“By coming out to ourselves,
we free up the energy we
spent keeping a part of
ourselves hidden.”*



**A transgender author
of fiction, nonfiction
and poetry, his writings
explore sexuality and
gender identity.**

© MARK CHESTER





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MANDY CARTER

b. November 2, 1948

ACTIVIST

“Sometimes you have to be bold and take a risk.”

The National Organization for Women called her “one of the nation’s leading African-American lesbian activists.”





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WILLA CATHER

AUTHOR

b. December 7, 1873

d. April 24, 1947

*“The end is nothing,
the road is all.”*



**She has been hailed
as one of the great
writers, especially for
her depictions of rural
American life.**





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TRACY CHAPMAN

b. March 30, 1964

SINGER/ SONGWRITER

“I’d like to live as if only love mattered.”



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Her first No. 1 hit, “Fast Car,” was named one of the best songs of all time by Rolling Stone.





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TIM COOK

b. November 1, 1960

“You can focus on things that are barriers or you can focus on scaling the wall.”

ENTREPRENEUR



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The CEO of Apple, Forbes magazine named him one of the “World’s Most Powerful People.”





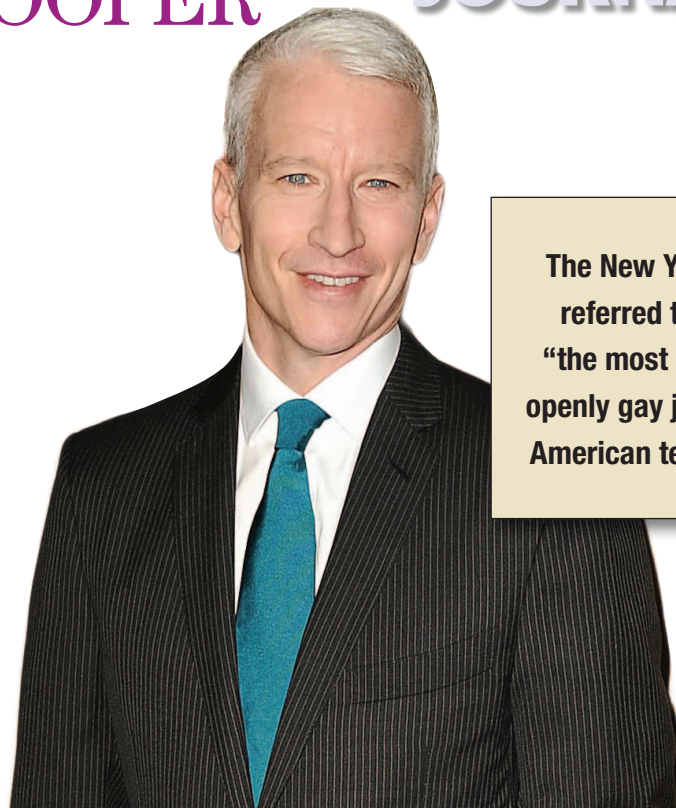
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ANDERSON COOPER

JOURNALIST

b. June 3, 1967

“I’m gay, always have been, always will be, and I couldn’t be any more happy, comfortable with myself, and proud.”



The New York Times referred to him as “the most prominent openly gay journalist in American television.”





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ELIO DI RUPO

b. July 18, 1951

BELGIUM PRIME MINISTER

*“My life is a fairy tale.
You could not make it up.”*



© ASSOCIATED PRESS

**He is the first
openly gay man
to be the
Head of State.**





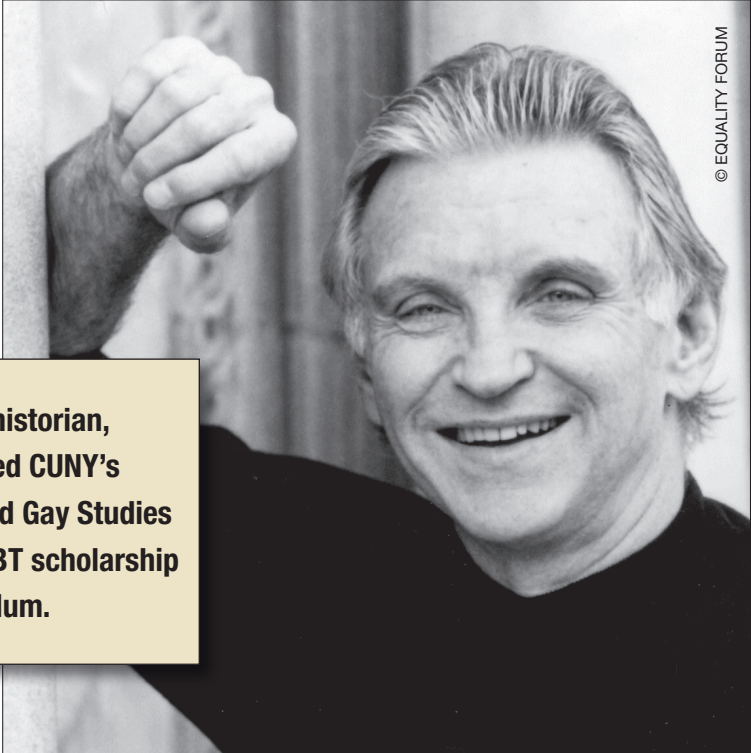
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MARTIN DUBERMAN

HISTORIAN

b. August 6, 1930

“I’m overwhelmed at the great distance that we have all traveled.”



A leading LGBT historian, Duberman founded CUNY’s Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies (CLAGS) to further LGBT scholarship and curriculum.





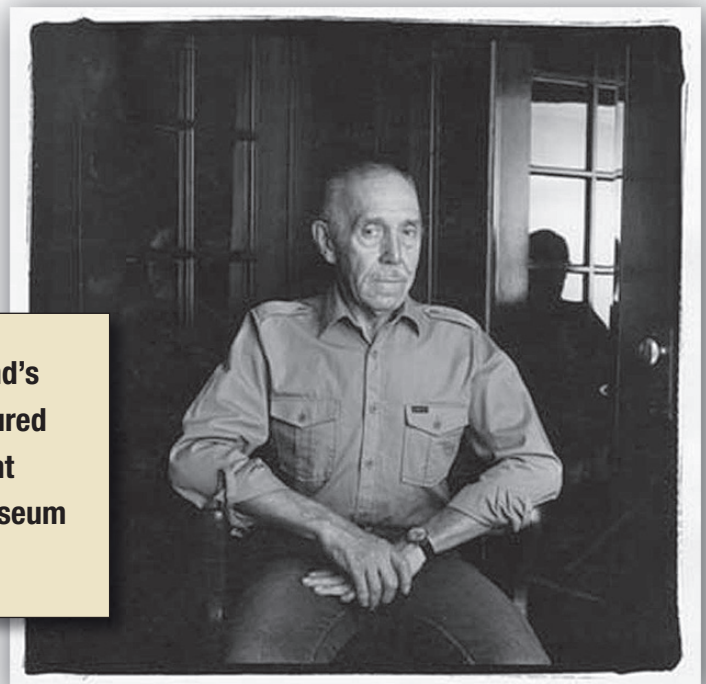
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TOM OF FINLAND

ARTIST

- b. May 8, 1920
- d. November 7, 1991

“My whole life long I have done nothing but interpret my dreams of ultimate masculinity, and draw them.”



Five Tom of Finland's drawings are featured in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art.





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BRENDA HOWARD

ACTIVIST

b. December 24, 1946

d. June 28, 2005

“Bi, Poly, Switch—I’m not greedy, I know what I want.”



© EQUALITY FORUM

She organized the first Pride parade and is known as the “Mother of Pride.”





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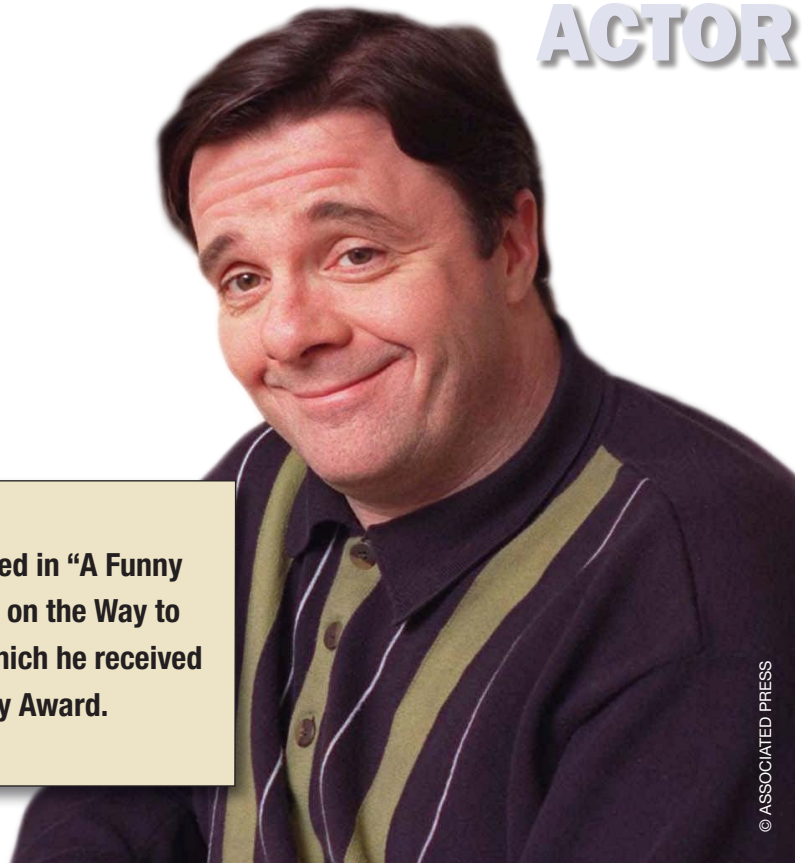
NATHAN LANE

b. February 3, 1956

ACTOR

“I think it is healthy to speak the truth, and be who you are, and be proud of that.”

In 1996, he starred in “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum,” for which he received his first Tony Award.



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QUEEN LATIFAH

b. March 18, 1970

“You have to believe in your ideas and fight for it.”

ENTERTAINER

Known as “Hip-Hop’s First Lady,” she is an acclaimed entertainer in music, film and television.





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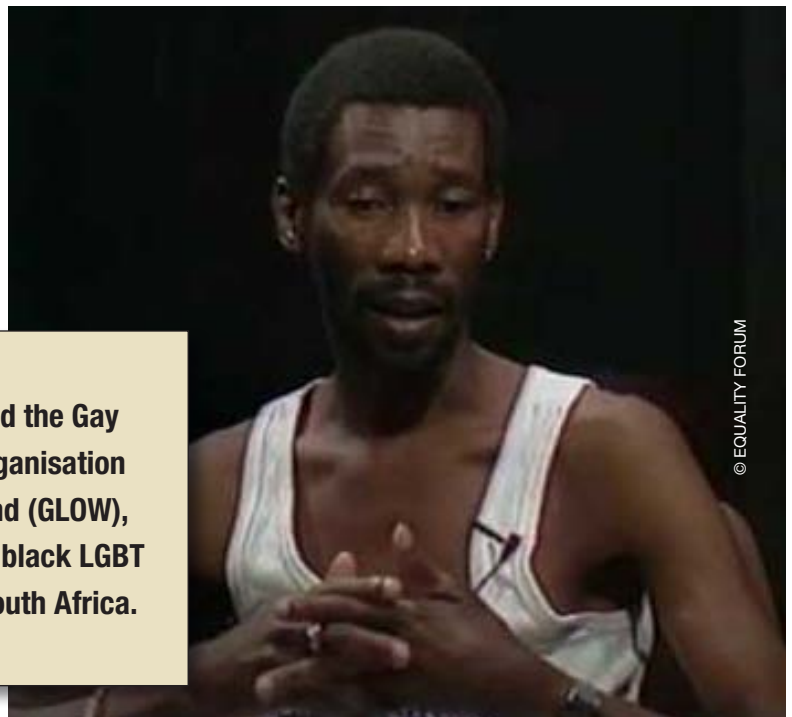
SIMON NKOLI

b. November 26, 1957

d. November 30, 1998

“I am black and I am gay. I cannot separate the two into secondary or primary struggles.”

SOUTH AFRICAN ACTIVIST



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Nkoli cofounded the Gay and Lesbian Organisation of Witwatersrand (GLOW), the first national black LGBT organization in South Africa.





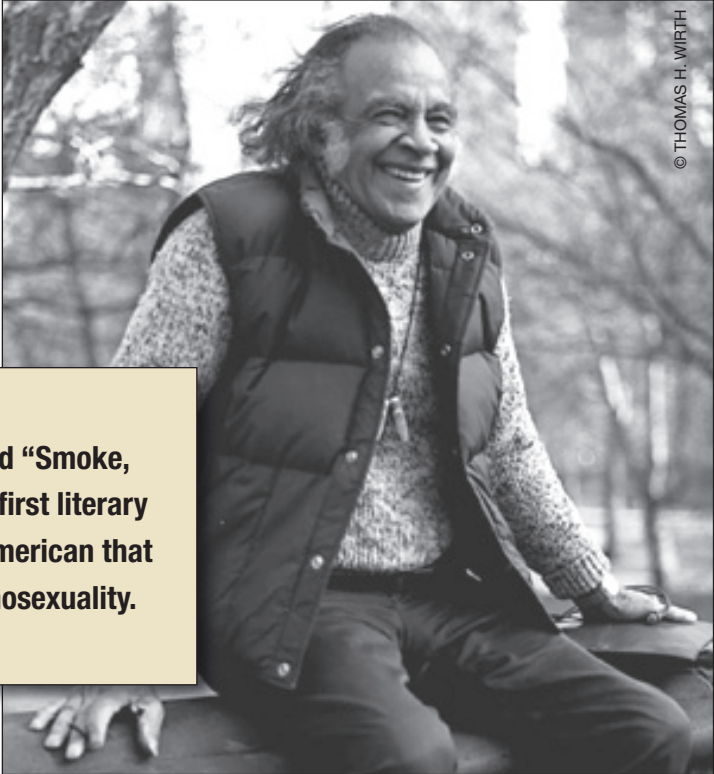
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BRUCE NUGENT

AUTHOR

b. July 2, 1906
d. May 27, 1987

“You’d be surprised how good homosexuality is. I love it.”



© THOMAS H. WIRTH

In 1926, he published “Smoke, Lilies, and Jade,” the first literary work by an African-American that openly depicted homosexuality.





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MA RAINEY

SINGER

- b. April 26, 1886
- d. December 22, 1939

“You sing ‘cause that’s a way of understanding life.”

Called the “Mother of the Blues,” she is recognized as one of the great female blues vocalists.



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SALLY RIDE

b. May 26, 1951

d. July 23, 2012

“Young girls need to see role models. You can’t be what you can’t see.”

NATIONAL HERO



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On June 18, 1983, Sally Ride became the first American woman in space.





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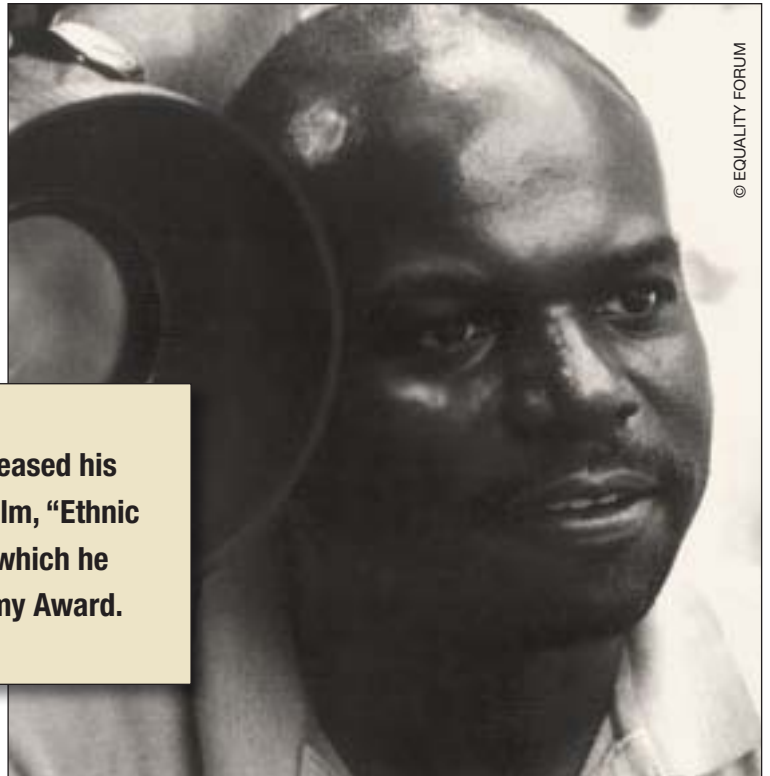
MARLON RIGGS

FILMMAKER

b. February 3, 1957

d. April 5, 1994

“Black men loving black men is THE revolutionary act.”



In 1987, he released his first television film, “Ethnic Notions,” for which he received an Emmy Award.





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VITO RUSSO

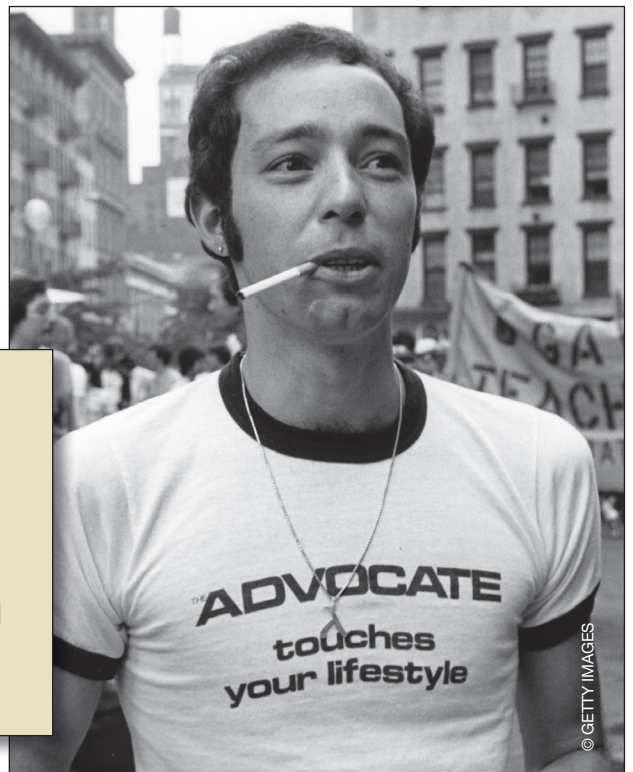
- b. July 11, 1946
- d. November 7, 1990

“I never once, not for a second, believed it was wrong to be gay.”



He is best known for his book, “The Celluloid Closet,” a groundbreaking chronicle of gays and lesbians in film.

FILM HISTORIAN



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JOSÉ SARRIA

ACTIVIST

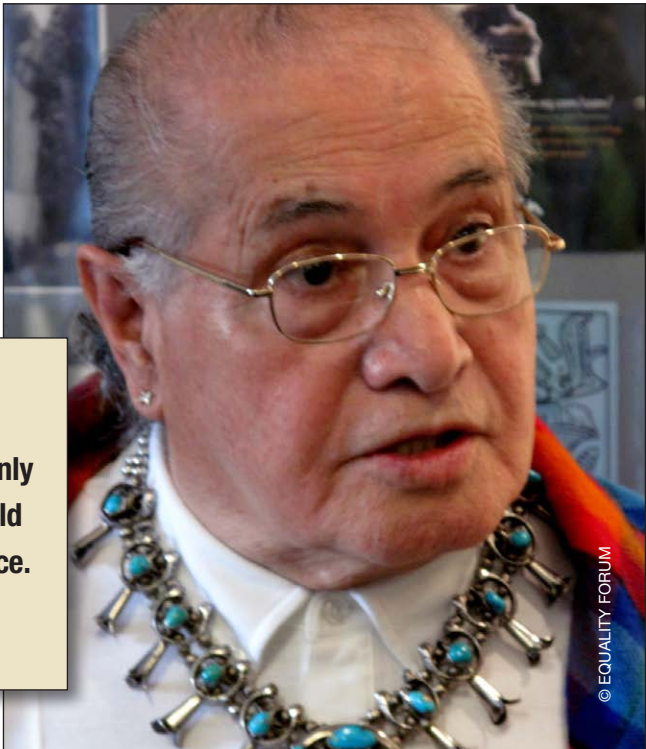
b. December 12, 1923

d. August 19, 2013

“Why be ashamed of who you are?”



He was the first openly gay man in the world to run for public office.



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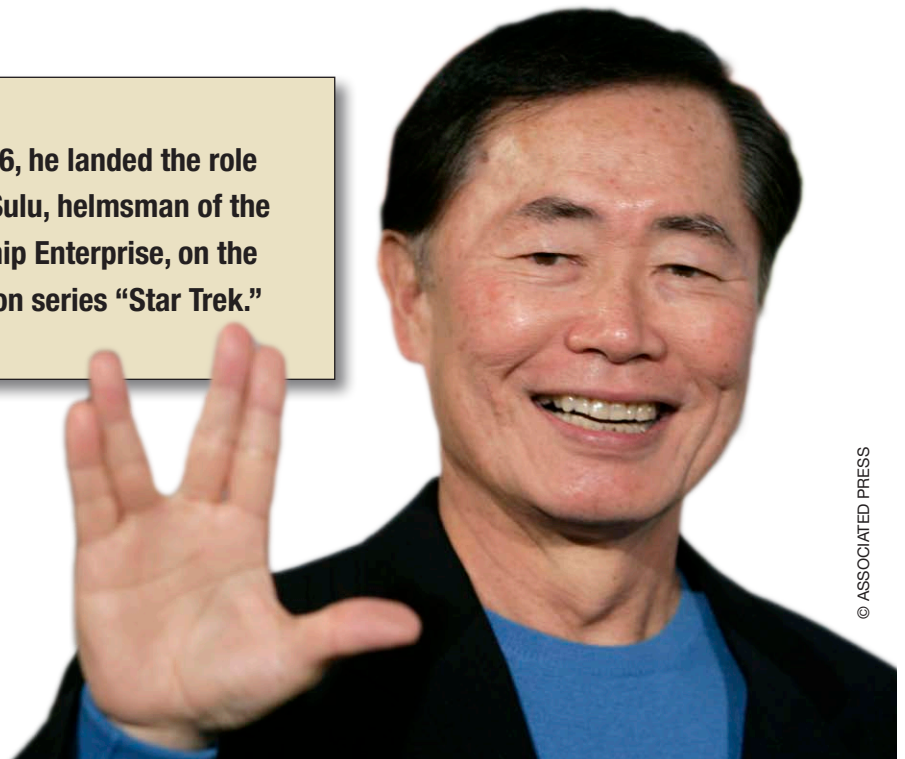
GEORGE TAKEI

ACTOR

b. April 20, 1937

“Diversity is one of the strengths of our society.”

In 1966, he landed the role of Mr. Sulu, helmsman of the Starship Enterprise, on the television series “Star Trek.”



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JASON WU

b. September 27, 1982

DESIGNER

“Being able to make history is something I would have never thought I would do.”



He designed both of Michelle Obama’s inaugural gowns, now on display at the Smithsonian Institution.



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JOHN LAWRENCE & TYRON GARNER

LEGAL ACTIVISTS

John Lawrence Tyron Garner
 b. 8/2/1943 b. 7/10/1967
 d. 11/20/2011 d. 9/11/2006



“When somebody is wronged and they don’t stand up for themselves, they’re going to get wronged again.”

– John Lawrence

They were defendants in a landmark Supreme Court case which legalized consensual same-sex intimacy.



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