

**Los Angeles Filmforum and Hollywood Entertainment present
Gender Troublemakers: Trans Authorship, DIY, and Experimentation Through Film
Sunday, July 21, 2024, 1:00 pm
At 2220 Arts + Archives**

Los Angeles Filmforum is the city's longest running organization dedicated to weekly screenings of experimental film, documentaries, video art, and experimental animation. 2024 is our 49th year. www.lafilmforum.org

Hollywood Entertainment seeks to entertain and educate filmgoers by screening and preserving eclectic, underseen, non-commercial, rare, and socially beneficial films and film-related artifacts. www.hollywood-entertainment.com

In person: Co-curator Caden Mark Gardner and director Cary Cronenwett, and Co-director Mirha-Soleil Ross by Zoom!

Guest-programmed by Caden Mark Gardner and Willow Catelyn Maclay (with Gardner in person) on the occasion of the release of the book they co-authored, *Corpses, Fools, and Monsters: The History and Future of Transness in Cinema*.

In the book *Corpses, Fools, and Monsters: The History and Future of Transness in Cinema*, co-authors Caden Mark Gardner and Willow Catelyn Maclay work to trace transness as a cinematic image- whether as a sight gag, abject, or well-intentioned but bungled humanization of trans people- to trans authorship and explicit narratives surrounding gender identity. In celebration of the book's publishing, the co-authors have curated a film program with the focus on trans authorship and experimental film touchstones covered in their expansive book.

The 1990s saw the rise of film festivals, film spaces, and cultural production that intersected with third wave feminism, riot grrrl, and Gen X d.i.y. zine culture, offering alternative paths for trans and gender non-conforming visual artists. New Queer Cinema became the major inflection point of this era but there were other heralded 'gender troublemakers' who set the tone for trans experimental filmmaking and cultural production whose DNA are still found in the works of Angelo Madsen Minax and others.

Caden Mark Gardner (he/him/his) is a freelance film critic and researcher from Upstate New York and is the co-author of *Corpses, Fools, and Monsters: The History and Future of Transness in Cinema*. His work has been published in *Film Comment*, *MUBI*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Reverse Shot*, and the *Criterion Collection*.

Cary Cronenwett directs and produces films that foreground forgotten histories and marginalized stories with an emphasis on inclusivity and process. His award-winning film, *Maggots and Men* was an epic collaboration with an ensemble cast that brought together scores of transgender actors and crew. In 2018 he directed a short, *Chicago Love*, that was part of the Emmy Award winning series *ACLU: Trans in America*. His work, both documentary and narrative, has screened in numerous festivals. He holds an MFA from California Institute of the Arts and a BA from Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. Originally from Oklahoma, he is currently based in Los Angeles.

Mirha-Soleil Ross - Interdisciplinary storyteller, writer, translator and social justice activist. She is widely known for her work in video, performance, theatre as well as for her critical contributions to transsexual and sex worker political movements and cultures. Performative texts published in *Bent on Writing: Contemporary Queer Tales* (Women's Press, 2002), *Working Sex: Sex Workers Write about a Changing Industry* (Seal Press, 2007), *Luttes XXX: Inspirations du mouvement des travailleuses du sexe* (Remue-Ménage, 2011). Political texts appear in *Whore Carnival* (autonome media, 1996), *My Breasts, My Choice: Journeys through Surgery* (Sumach Press, 2004), and *Sex Change, Social Change: Reflections on Identity, Institutions and Imperialism* (Women's Press, 2011). Her work is

featured in *The Romance of Transgression: Queer Sexualities, Nations, Cinéma* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2006), and the *Canadian Theatre Review* (spring 2007). In 1997, she founded COUNTING PAST 2, (Canada's first multidisciplinary art festival dedicated to the presentation of music, dance, film, performance, and spoken word created by Canadian and International transsexual and transgendered artists. She received the Marion McMahon award for Materstina (Images Festival 2004) and Prix du public for Allo Performance! (Les Nomades du court métrage 2005). Ross grew up in a taudis on the South-Shore of Montréal with dogs, chicken, cats and sewer rats as well as her illiterate but resourceful father, and a colorful, foulmouthed Métis maternal family originally from the Maskinongé/Rivière-du-loup region of Eastern Québec.

Willow Catelyn Maclay (she/her/hers) is a freelance film critic and co-author of *Corpses, Fools and Monsters: An Examination of Trans Film Images in Cinema*. She has written for numerous outlets including The Village Voice, Polygon, MUBI, Film Comment, and Reverse Shot.

Screening:

Gendertroublemakers

Directors: Mirha-Soleil Ross and Xanthra MacKay (Canada, 1993, Digital video, color, 26 min.)

This politically-driven radical 't4t' lesbian romance short put off the more mainstream gay film festivals in Canada at the time. Mirha-Soleil Ross (Jeanne B.) and Xanthra Mackay (Xanthra Philippa) made their names in alternative circles for their trans zine *Gendertrash from Hell* but it was evident the world was not yet ready to engage with their dialogue on trans femininity and sexuality. Such rejection propelled Ross and MacKay (Xanthra Philippa) to launch Counting Past 2: Performance-Film-Video-Spoken Word with Transsexual Nerve! in Toronto that was committed to showing exclusively trans artists and performers that were otherwise ignored by the city's cultural institutions.

Maggots and Men

Director: Cary Cronenwett (USA, 2009, Digital video, b&w, 53 min. With: Stormy Henry Knight and Max Wolf Valerio.)

A multi-year undertaking that conjures the old Soviet film technique of Sergei Eisenstein and similar pastiche works by Guy Maddin, Cary Cronenwett's spirited revisionist film places transmasculine bodies at the radical heart of the real-life 1921 Kronstadt Rebellion. Cronenwett and team reimagine the uprising through an epistolary narrative device that personalizes the political stakes of the film that remains prescient to today's trans politics. Featuring one of the largest casts of trans actors in a film, *Maggots and Men* plays with cinema and history that is playful, poignant, and subversive.

Bigger on the Inside

Director: Angelo Madsen Minax (USA, 2022, Digital video, color, 12 min.)

A trans man chats up with potential hookups on Scruff, watches YouTube tutorials, takes drugs, lies about taking drugs, and gazes up at the stars. Whether in the form of nudes, landscapes, and unsituated boundaries, the body becomes both a portal and lens through which to probe our most personal desires.

This program is supported by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and the Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles. We also depend on our members, ticket buyers, and individual donors.

Coming Soon to Los Angeles Filmforum

July 28 – *Richland*, by Irene Lustzig

Memberships available, \$40 Student \$75 Individual, \$125 Dual, or \$225 Silver Nitrate

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