



GLBT
Historical
Society
museum & archives

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**February LGBTQ History Programs Highlight
Activist Hank Wilson, Rainbow-Flag Creator Gilbert
Baker, Transgender Pioneer Lou Sullivan**

San Francisco — The program series for February 2020 sponsored by the GLBT Historical Society will highlight the life of activist Hank Wilson, memories of rainbow-flag creator Gilbert Baker and the diaries of transgender pioneer Lou Sullivan. All events take place at the GLBT Historical Society Museum at 4127 18th St. in the Castro District. For more information, visit www.glbthistory.org.

Film Screening

Thanks to Hank: A Liberation Movement, a Plague, an Unsung Hero

Thursday, February 6

7:00–9:00 p.m.

The GLBT Historical Society Museum

4127 18th St., San Francisco

Admission: \$5 | Free for members

In 1970s San Francisco, activist Hank Wilson (1947–2008) cofounded the first gay teachers' union, the first gay community self-defense project, the first gay comedy club and the first gay film festival. Wilson also worked to draw attention to the problem of gay youth suicide, and after the emergence of AIDS, he spent 20 years running a 150-room residential hotel as an informal hospice for homeless people dying of the disease. "Thanks to Hank" (2019) is a loving, cinematic portrait of this extraordinary man by director and composer Bob Ostertag, featuring gorgeous handmade scissor-and-paper animation by animator Jeremy Rourke and the music of the Kronos Quartet and the Tin Hat Trio. Following the screening, Ostertag and longtime activist and elected official Tom Ammiano will respond to questions and comments from the audience. Tickets are available online at <https://bit.ly/390Xtyr>.

Panel Discussion

"The Rainbow Did That": Remembering Gilbert Baker

Thursday, February 20

7:00–9:00 p.m.

The GLBT Historical Society Museum

4127 18th St., San Francisco
Admission: \$5; free for members

A panel of contemporaries and friends of the late Gilbert Baker, the creator of the iconic rainbow flag, will discuss Baker's artistic output, activism and legacy. Panelists will include activist Charley Beal, the manager of the Gilbert Baker Estate, and Cass Brayton, better known as Sister Mary Media, a longtime member of the LGBTQ activist and fundraising group the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Swapping stories, spilling secrets and sharing memories, the speakers will recall the life and times of a complex and deeply passionate man. This program is being held in conjunction with the exhibition "[Performance, Protest and Politics: The Art of Gilbert Baker](#)," on display at the GLBT Historical Society Museum through April 5. Tickets are available online at <https://bit.ly/2ZclLRt>.

Book Launch

Following Lou: Searching the Archives for Our Queer Past

Thursday, February 27

7:00–9:00 p.m.

The GLBT Historical Society Museum

4127 18th St., San Francisco

Admission: \$5; free for members

Louis Sullivan (1951–1991) was a founding member of the GLBT Historical Society and a transgender gay man whose pioneering activism on behalf of trans men in the 1970s and 1980s helped shape the modern understanding of sexual orientation and gender identity. The society's archives hold Sullivan's extensive diaries, written between the 1960s and the 1990s, which chronicle his coming of age, coming-out as a gay trans man and work as a historian. Researcher Ellis Martin and poet and artist Zach Ozma have compiled selections from the diaries into a new book, *[We Both Laughed In Pleasure: The Selected Diaries of Lou Sullivan](#)* (Nightboat Books, 2019). In editing the volume, they confronted a number of challenging questions: How can queer historians draw strength and lessons from LGBTQ history, and how can they interpret a historical record that has often erased or misidentified queer people? In this discussion, Martin, Ozma and the GLBT Historical Society's reference archivist, Isaac Fellman, will read excerpts from Sullivan's diaries and discuss the complex issues involved in queer historical storytelling. Copies of *We Both Laughed in Pleasure* will be available for purchase and signing. Tickets are available online at <https://bit.ly/2ZdbGn7>.

ABOUT THE GLBT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

Open since January 2011, the GLBT Historical Society Museum is the first stand-alone museum of its kind in the United States. Its Main Gallery features a long-term exhibition on San Francisco LGBTQ history, "Queer Past Becomes Present." Its Front Gallery and Community Gallery host changing exhibitions. The institution also sponsors forums, author talks and other programs.

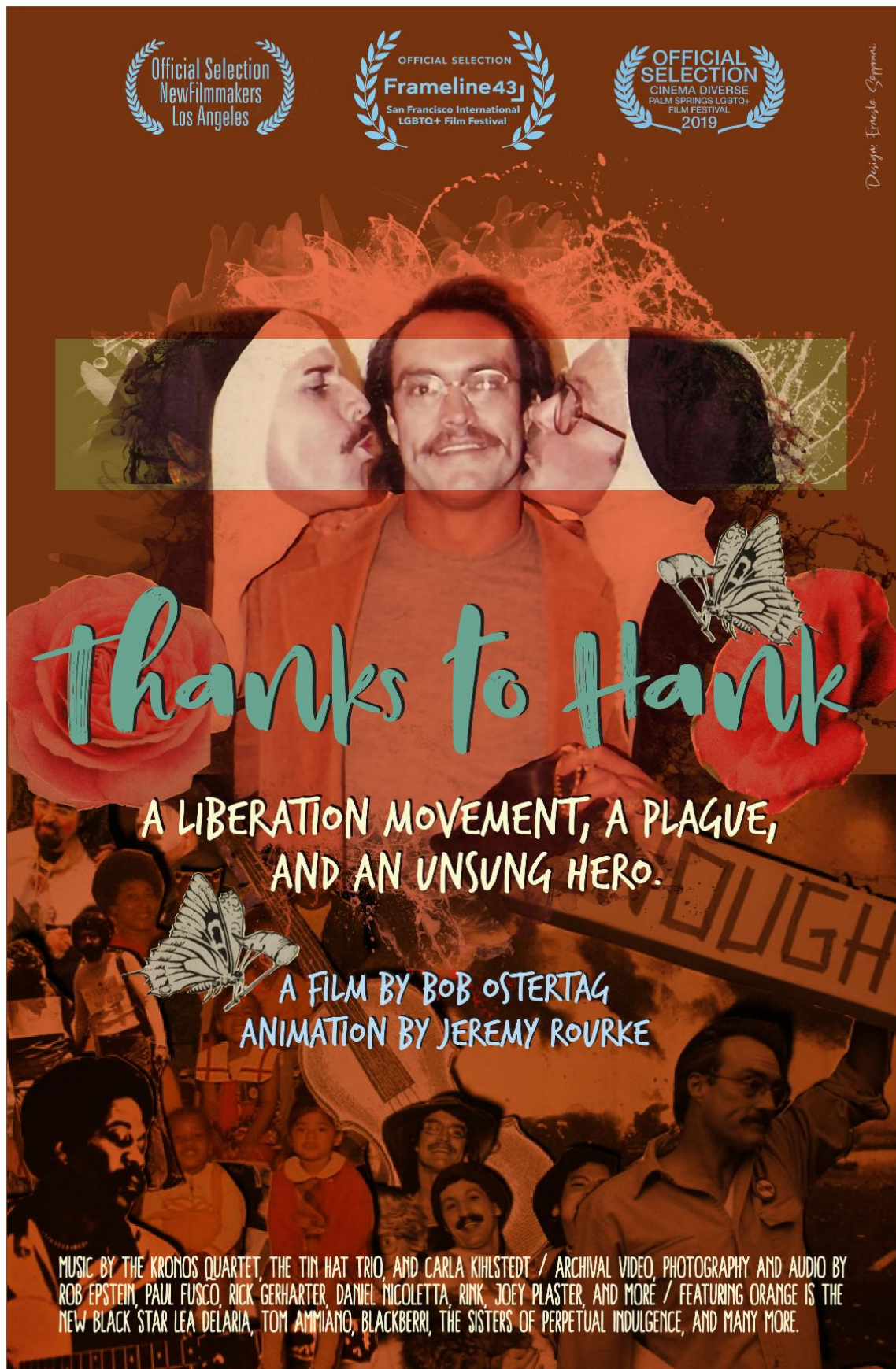
The GLBT Historical Society Museum is a project of the GLBT Historical Society, a public history center and archives that collects, preserves and interprets the history of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and the communities that support them. Founded in 1985, the society maintains one of

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.

February 6: Film Screening



Poster for “Thanks to Hank” designed by Ernesto Sopprani; used with permission.

February 20: Panel Discussion



Gilbert Baker posing in a rainbow dress with a Rolling Stones tambourine during the 1987 Castro Street Fair; photograph by Robert Pruzan, collection of the GLBT Historical Society.

February 27: Book Launch



WE BOTH LAUGHED IN PLEASURE

**THE SELECTED DIARIES
OF LOU SULLIVAN**

1961-1991

EDITED BY

**ELLIS MARTIN
AND ZACH OZMA**

INTRODUCTION BY

SUSAN STRYKER

▽ ∞ * | nightboat

Cover of *We Both Laughed in Pleasure*, courtesy of Nightboat Books, used with permission.



Lou Sullivan in a snapshot included in his correspondence; collection of the GLBT Historical Society.

The GLBT Historical Society | (415) 777-5455 | info@glbthistory.org | www.glbthistory.org

