This Companion examines the connections between LGBTQ populations and American literature from the late eighteenth to the twenty-first century. It surveys primary and secondary writings under the evolving category of gay and lesbian authorship and incorporates current thinking in U.S.-based LGBTQ studies as well as critical practices within the field of American literary studies. The Companion also addresses the ways in which queerness pervades persons, texts, bodies, and reading, while paying attention to the transnational component of such objects and practices. In so doing, it details the chief genres, conventional historical backgrounds, and influential interpretive practices that support the analysis of LGBTQ literatures in the United States.

Scott Herring is Associate Professor of English at Indiana University, Bloomington. His previous books include The Hoarders: Material Deviance in Modern American Culture (2014); Another Country: Queer Anti-Urbanism (2010); and Queering the Underworld: Slumming, Literature, and the Undoing of Lesbian and Gay History (2007). Herring's articles have also appeared in such journals as American Quarterly, Modern Fiction Studies, GLQ, and PMLA.

A complete list of books in the series is at the back of this book
THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO
AMERICAN GAY AND LESBIAN LITERATURE
THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO

AMERICAN GAY AND LESBIAN LITERATURE

EDITED BY

SCOTT HERRING

Indiana University
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NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

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DANIELA CASELLI is Associate Professor at the University of Manchester. She is the author of *Improper Modernism: Djuna Barnes’s Bewildering Corpus* (Ashgate, 2009) and *Beckett’s Dantes: Intertextuality in the Fiction and Criticism* (Manchester University Press, 2005). Her work on gender, sexuality, and critical theory has appeared in *Textual Practice* (2006), *Feminist Theory* (2010), and *Parallax* (Forthcoming). She is currently working on a project on the figure of the child in modernism.


GUY DAVIDSON is Senior Lecturer in the English Literatures program at the University of Wollongong. He has published widely on sexuality and American literature. His book *Queer Commodities: Contemporary US Fiction, Consumer Capitalism, and Gay and Lesbian Subcultures* was published in 2012 by Palgrave Macmillan. He is also coeditor, with Nicola Evans, of *Literary Careers in the Modern Era* (Palgrave, 2015). His current research project examines literary celebrity, sexuality, and affect in the postwar United States.
NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

TRAVIS FOSTER is Assistant Professor of English at Villanova University, where he is working on a book about popular genres, race, and social history in the wake of the U.S. Civil War. His work has also appeared in American Literature, ESQ: A Journal of the American Renaissance, and American Literary History.

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SCOTT HERRING is Associate Professor of English at Indiana University, Bloomington. His books include The Hoarders: Material Deviance in Modern American Culture (University of Chicago Press, 2014); Another Country: Queer Anti-Urbanism (New York University Press, 2010); and Queering the Underworld: Slumming, Literature, and the Undoing of Lesbian and Gay History (University of Chicago Press, 2007).

LUCAS HILDERBRAND is Associate Professor of Film and Media Studies and Director of Visual Studies at the University of California, Irvine. He is the author of Inherent Vice: Bootleg Histories of Videotape and Copyright (Duke University Press, 2009) and Paris Is Burning: A Queer Film Classic (Arsenal Pulp Press, 2013).

ERIC KEENAGHAN is the author of Queering Cold War Poetry (Ohio State University Press, 2009) and a contributing author to The Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics (4th ed., 2012) and The Cambridge History of Gay and Lesbian Literature (2014). He has published widely on modernist poetry, sexuality, and politics, and he is currently writing a new book on philosophical anarchism and the politics of affect in mid-century American poetry. He teaches at the University at Albany, SUNY.

SEAN METZGER is Associate Professor in the UCLA School of Theater, Film, and Television. He is the author of Chinese Looks: Fashion, Performance, Race (Indiana University Press, 2014). His coedited volumes include Embodying Asian/American Sexualities (Lexington, 2009); Futures of Chinese Cinema: Technologies and Temporalities in Chinese Screen Cultures (Intellect, 2009); and special journal issues of Cultural Dynamics (2009) and Third Text (2014).

JULIE AVRIL MINICH is Assistant Professor of English, Mexican American and Latina/o Studies, and Women and Gender Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. She is the author of Accessible Citizenships: Disability, Nation, and the Cultural Politics of Greater Mexico (Temple University Press, 2014). Additionally,
Notes on Contributors

Her articles have appeared in journals such as *Comparative Literature*, *Modern Fiction Studies*, and the *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies*.

**Martin Joseph Ponce** is Associate Professor of English at The Ohio State University. His teaching and research interests focus on U.S. ethnic literatures, histories of U.S. empire, and queer of color and queer diasporic critique. He is the author of *Beyond the Nation: Diasporic Filipino Literature and Queer Reading* (New York University Press, 2012).

**Judith Roof** is William Shakespeare Chair in English at Rice University. She is the author of *A Lure of Knowledge: Lesbian Sexuality and Theory* (Columbia University Press, 1991); *Come as You Are: Sexuality and Narrative* (Columbia University Press, 1996); *All about Thelma and Eve: Sidekicks and Third Wheels* (University of Illinois Press, 2002); and the forthcoming *Remaking Gender* (University of Minnesota Press), among other monographs.

**L. H. Stallings** is Associate Professor of Gender Studies at Indiana University. She is the author of *Mutha’ Is Half a Word: Intersections of Folklore, Vernacular, Myth, and Queerness in Black Female Culture* (Ohio State University Press, 2007) and coeditor and contributing author to *Word Hustle: Critical Essays and Reflections on the Works of Donald Goines* (Black Classic Press, 2011). Her second book, *Funk the Erotic: Transaesthetics and Black Sexual Cultures*, is forthcoming from the University of Illinois Press.

**Kyla Wazana Tompkins** is Associate Professor of Gender Studies and English at Pomona College. She is the author of *Racial Indigestion: Eating Bodies in the Nineteenth Century* (New York University Press, 2012), which won the Lora Romero Prize for best first book from the American Studies Association.
CHRONOLOGY

1799–1865

1799      Charles Brockden Brown, *Ormond; or, The Secret Witness*
1808      Leonora Sansay, *Secret History; or, The Horrors of St. Domingo*
1810      Anonymous, *Rosa; or, American Genius and Education*
1823–1841 James Fenimore Cooper, “Leatherstocking Tales”
1830      Emily Dickinson born; letters to sister-in-law Susan Huntington Gilbert taken as evidence of lesbian desire by feminist critics in later twentieth century
1835      Augustus Baldwin Longstreet, “A Sage Conversation”
1839      Edgar Allan Poe, “William Wilson”
1841      Walt Whitman, “Bervance: or, Father and Son” and “The Child’s Champion”
1846      Herman Melville, *Typee: A Peep at Polynesian Life*
Late 1840s  Julia Ward Howe, *The Hermaphrodite* (unpublished until 2004)
1851      Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The House of the Seven Gables*
1851      Herman Melville, *Moby-Dick; or, The Whale*
1852      Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Blithedale Romance*
1854      Bayard Taylor, *A Journey to Central Africa; or, Life and Landscapes from Egypt to the Negro Kingdoms of the White Nile*
Chronology

1855      Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass* (first edition)
1857      Anonymous, “The Man Who Thought Himself a Woman”
1858      Rose Terry Cooke, “My Visitation”
1863      Harriet Elizabeth Prescott Spofford, “The Amber Gods”

1866–1889

1866      Augusta Jane Evans, *St. Elmo*
1869      Bret Harte, “Tennessee’s Partner”
1870      Bayard Taylor, *Joseph and His Friend: A Story of Pennsylvania*
1871      Frederic W. Loring, *Two College Friends*
1875      Henry James, *Roderick Hudson*
1876      Constance Fenimore Woolson, “Felipa”
1880      Alice French, “My Lorelei”
1882      Oscar Wilde tours United States
1884      Sarah Orne Jewett, *A Country Doctor*
1885      Oliver Wendell Holmes, *A Mortal Antipathy*
1885      Charles Warren Stoddard, *The Lepers of Molokai*
1886      Henry James, *The Bostonians*
1887      Mary Eleanor Wilkins Freeman, “Two Friends”
1888      James Lane Allen, “Two Gentlemen of Kentucky”
1889      Alfred J. Cohen (Alan Dale), *A Marriage Below Zero: A Novel*

1890–1899

1890      Harriet Riddle Davis, *Gilbert Elgar’s Son*
1896      S. Weir Mitchell, *Hugh Wynne: Free Quaker*
## Chronology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1897</td>
<td>Alice Brown, “There and Here”</td>
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<td>1897</td>
<td>Sarah Orne Jewett, “Martha’s Lady”</td>
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<td>1900–1909</td>
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<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>Pauline Hopkins, <em>Contending Forces: A Romance Illustrative of Negro Life North and South</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1902</td>
<td>Pauline Hopkins, <em>Winona: A Tale of Negro Life in the South and Southwest</em></td>
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<td>1902</td>
<td>Henry James, <em>The Wings of the Dove</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>ca. 1902</td>
<td>Mark Twain, “How Nancy Jackson Married Kate Wilson”</td>
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<tr>
<td>1903</td>
<td>Henry James, “The Beast in the Jungle”</td>
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<td>1903</td>
<td>Gertrude Stein, <em>Q. E. D.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1903</td>
<td>Charles Warren Stoddard, <em>For the Pleasure of His Company</em></td>
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<td>1905</td>
<td>Willa Cather, “Paul’s Case: A Study in Temperament”</td>
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<td>1909</td>
<td>Gertrude Stein, <em>Three Lives</em></td>
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<td>1910–1919</td>
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<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>Jane Addams, <em>Twenty Years at Hull-House</em></td>
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<td>1912</td>
<td>Edith Maude Eaton (Sui Sin Far), <em>Mrs. Spring Fragrance</em></td>
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<td>1912</td>
<td>James Weldon Johnson, <em>The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man</em></td>
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<td>1914</td>
<td>Gertrude Stein, <em>Tender Buttons</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1915</td>
<td>Djuna Barnes, <em>The Book of Repulsive Women</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1915</td>
<td>Willa Cather, <em>The Song of the Lark</em></td>
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<td>1916</td>
<td>Angelina Weld Grimké, <em>Rachel</em></td>
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<td>1917</td>
<td>Edna St. Vincent Millay, <em>Renascence and Other Poems</em></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Chronology**

1918      Willa Cather, *My Ántonia*
1918/1919  Ralph Werther (other aliases include Earl Lind and Jennie June), *Autobiography of an Androgyne*

1920–1929

1921      Zitkala-Ša, *American Indian Stories*
1924      Marianne Moore, *Observations*
1925      Willa Cather, *The Professor’s House*
1925      Countee Cullen dedicates “Heritage” to Harold Jackman
1925      Robert McAlmon, *Distinguished Air (Grim Fairy Tales)*
ca. 1926–1935      Harlem (New Negro) Renaissance supports queer artists, such as Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen, Claude McKay, Nella Larsen, Carl Van Vechten, Wallace Thurman, and Richard Bruce Nugent
1927      Mae West, *The Drag*
1928      Djuna Barnes, *Ladies Almanack*
1928      Claude McKay, *Home to Harlem*
1928–1929  Obscenity trial for Radclyffe Hall’s 1928 *The Well of Loneliness* in America
1929      Nella Larsen, *Passing*

1930–1939

1930      Hart Crane, *The Bridge*
1930      Carl Van Vechten, *Parties: Scenes from Contemporary New York Life*
1931      Blair Niles, *Strange Brother*
1932      Wallace Thurman, *Infants of the Spring*
Chronology

1933      Charles Henri Ford and Parker Tyler, *The Young and Evil*
1933      Gertrude Stein, *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*
1933      José Garcia Villa, *Footnote to Youth: Tales of the Philippines and Others*
1934      Lillian Hellman, *The Children’s Hour*
1935      H. T. Tsiang, *The Hanging on Union Square*
1937      Djuna Barnes, *Nightwood* (American publication)
1938      Gertrude Stein, *Doctor Faustus Lights the Lights*

1940–1949

1944      Charles Jackson, *The Lost Weekend*
1946      Carson McCullers, *The Member of the Wedding*
1947      Kenneth Anger, *Fireworks* (film)
1947      Edith Eyde (Lisa Ben) edits and publishes *Vice Versa*
1948      Truman Capote, *Other Voices, Other Rooms*
1948      Alfred Hitchcock, *Rope* (film)
1948      Gore Vidal, *The City and the Pillar*
1949      Thomas Hal Phillips, *The Bitterweed Path*

1950–1959

1950s      Height of what historian David K. Johnson refers to as the “Lavender Scare,” or the extreme scrutiny and oppression of U.S. government–affiliated lesbians and gays
1950      Mattachine Society founded
1951      Langston Hughes, “Café: 3 a.m.”
1951      Edward Sagarin (Donald Webster Cory), *The Homosexual in America: A Subjective Approach*
Chronology

1952    Patricia Highsmith (Claire Morgan), *The Price of Salt*

1952    ONE, Inc., founded in Los Angeles

1952    *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* lists homosexuality as “Sexual Deviation” alongside “transvestitism, pedophilia, fetishism and sexual sadism”


1954    Tennessee Williams, *Hard Candy: A Book of Stories*

1955    Elizabeth Bishop, *Poems: North & South/A Cold Spring*

1955    Tennessee Williams, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*

1955    Daughters of Bilitis formed

1956    James Baldwin, *Giovanni’s Room*

1956    Jeannette Howard Foster, *Sex Variant Women in Literature: A Historical and Quantitative Survey*

1956    Allen Ginsberg, *Howl and Other Poems*

1957    Jack Spicer, *After Lorca*


1958    Tennessee Williams, *Suddenly, Last Summer*

1959    Lorraine Hansberry, *A Raisin in the Sun*

1960–1969

1962    Edward Albee, *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

1962    James Baldwin, *Another Country*

1962    William S. Burroughs, *Naked Lunch* (American publication; originally published in Britain in 1959)

1963    John Rechy, *City of Night*
Chronology

1963      Jack Smith, *Flaming Creatures* (film)
1963      Guy Strait publishes *The Lavender Baedeker*
1964      Christopher Isherwood, *A Single Man*
1964      Frank O’Hara, *Lunch Poems*
1964      Susan Sontag, “Notes on ‘Camp’”
1964      Andy Warhol, *Blow Job* (film)
1965      Elizabeth Bishop, *Questions of Travel*
1966      Samuel M. Steward (Phil Andros), *Stud*
1966      Queer protest riots at San Francisco’s Compton’s Cafeteria
1967      Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookshop opens in New York City’s Greenwich Village
1968      Gore Vidal, *Myra Breckinridge*
1969      Queer protest riots at New York City’s Stonewall Inn

1970–1979

1970     Rise of lesbian and gay independent presses
1971–1972 The Furies Collective, a Washington, DC–based lesbian separatist organization; Rita Mae Brown a notable member
1972     Sidney Abbott and Barbara Love, *Sappho Was a Right-On Woman: A Liberated View of Lesbianism*
1973     Rita Mae Brown, *Rubyfruit Jungle*
1973     Toni Morrison, *Sula*
1974     Ann Allen Shockley, *Loving Her*
1974     Gay Caucus for the Modern Languages founded within the Modern Language Association
CHRONOLOGY

1975
John Ashbery, *Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror*

1975
Joanna Russ, *The Female Man*

1976
Lisa Alther, *Kinflicks*

1976
Bertha Harris, *Lover*

1977
María Irene Fornés, *Fefu and Her Friends*

1977
Barbara Smith, “Toward a Black Feminist Criticism”

1977
Anita Bryant launches Save Our Children campaign, which advances rise of New Christian Right

1978
Andrew Holleran, *Dancer from the Dance*

1978
Harvey Milk assassinated

1979
*Conditions: Five*, special issue titled “The Black Women’s Issue”; includes essay on Angelina Weld Grimké’s queerness

1979
Moral Majority, an antigay Christian organization, founded by Jerry Falwell

1980–1989

1980
Howard Cruse releases first issue of *Gay Comix*

1980
William Friedkin, *Cruising* (film)

1980
Adrienne Rich, “Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence”

1980
Edmund White, *States of Desire: Travels in Gay America*

1980
Split Britches Company founded

1980
WOW (Women on Women) Café founded

1980
Human Rights Campaign Fund founded

1981
Audre Lorde, *Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power*

1981
Cherrie Moraga and Gloria Anzaldúa coedit *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color*

1981
*The New York Times* publishes article “Rare Cancer Seen in 41 Homosexuals,” the newspaper’s first notification of what would later become standardized as HIV/AIDS

xx
Chronology

1982  Audre Lorde, *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name: A Biomythography*

1983  Alison Bechdel, *Dykes to Watch Out For*

1984  David Leavitt, *Family Dancing*

1984  Charles Ludlam, *The Mystery of Irma Vep*

1985  Beth Brant, *Mohawk Trail*

1985  Larry Kramer, *The Normal Heart*

1986  Joseph Beam edits *In the Life: A Black Gay Anthology*

1986  *Bowers v. Hardwick* affirms U.S. sodomy laws

1987  Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*

1987  Michelle Cliff, *No Telephone to Heaven*

1987  Randy Shilts, *And the Band Played On*

1987  ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) founded in New York City


1988  David Henry Hwang, *M. Butterfly*

1989  First annual Lambda Literary Awards

1990–1999

1990  Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*

1990  Jessica Hagedorn, *Dogeaters*


1990  Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, *Epistemology of the Closet*

1990  Pomo Afro Homos performance group organized

1990  Queer Nation, an AIDS activist organization, founded in New York City
Chronology

1990      Phrase “queer theory” coined by academic scholar Teresa de Lauretis
1990      National Endowment for the Arts revokes funding for “NEA Four” (Karen Finley, John Fleck, Holly Hughes, and Tim Miller)
1991      Dennis Cooper, *Discontents: New Queer Writers*
1991      Melvin Dixon, *Vanishing Rooms*
1991      E. Lynn Harris, *Invisible Life*
1991      Essex Hemphill edits *Brother to Brother: New Writings by Black Gay Men*
1991      Eileen Myles, *Not Me*
1991      Carla Trujillo, *Chicana Lesbians: The Girls Our Mothers Warned Us About*
1991      David Wojnarowicz, *Close to the Knives: A Memoir of Disintegration*
1992      Dorothy Allison, *Bastard Out of Carolina*
1992      Essex Hemphill, *Ceremonies: Prose and Poetry*
1992      Paul Monette, *Becoming a Man: Half a Life Story*
1992      Cherrie Moraga, *Heroes and Saints*
1992      Sandy Stone, “The *Empire* Strikes Back: A Posttranssexual Manifesto,” published in academic journal *Camera Obscura*
1992      Phrase “New Queer Cinema” coined by critic B. Ruby Rich; associated directors include Todd Haynes, Cheryl Dunye, Kimberly Pierce, and Rose Troche
1993      Henry Abelove, Michèle Aina Barale, and David M. Halperin coedit *The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader*
1993      Leslie Feinberg, *Stone Butch Blues*
# Chronology

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>March on Washington for Gay, Lesbian, and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation</td>
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<td>1993</td>
<td>Intersex Society of North America (ISNA) launched by Cheryl Chase (Bo Laurent)</td>
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<td>1994</td>
<td>Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell (DADT), a U.S. government policy punitive toward out lesbians and gays in the military, initiated</td>
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<td>1995</td>
<td>R. Zamora Linmark, <em>Rolling the R’s</em></td>
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<td>1995</td>
<td>Andrew Sullivan, <em>Virtually Normal: An Argument about Homosexuality</em></td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td>Holly Hughes, <em>Clit Notes: A Sapphic Sampler</em></td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td>Cherríe Moraga, <em>Watsonville: Some Place Not Here</em></td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td>Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) defines marriage as “only a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife”</td>
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<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Rafael Campo, <em>The Poetry of Healing: A Doctor’s Education in Empathy, Identity, and Desire</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Sex Panic! activism begins in New York City</td>
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<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Lawrence Chua, <em>Gold by the Inch</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Michael Cunningham, <em>The Hours</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Stephen Trask and John Cameron Mitchell, <em>Hedwig and the Angry Inch</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>José Esteban Muñoz, <em>Disidentifications: Queers of Color and the Performance of Politics</em></td>
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2000–

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Naomi Iizuka, <em>36 Views</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Craig Womack, <em>Drowning in Fire</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Jeffrey Eugenides, <em>Middlesex</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chronology

2002      Richard Greenberg, *Take Me Out*
2003      Monique Truong, *The Book of Salt*
2003      *Lawrence v. Texas* strikes down *Bowers v. Hardwick*; includes amicus brief coauthored by LGBTQ historians and social critics, such as George Chauncey, Estelle B. Freedman, Mark D. Jordan, John Howard, and Elizabeth Lapovsky Kennedy
2005      Ang Lee, *Brokeback Mountain* (film); screenplay adapted from E. Annie Proulx’s 1997 short story
2006      Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*
2009      Terry Galloway, *Mean Little Deaf Queer: A Memoir*
2010      Justin Spring, *Secret Historian: The Life and Times of Samuel Steward, Professor, Tattoo Artist, and Sexual Renegade*
2011      Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell (DADT) repealed
2012      Kate Bornstein, *A Queer and Pleasant Danger: A Memoir*
2012      Samuel R. Delany, *Through the Valley of the Nest of Spiders*
2013      *United States v. Windsor* overturns Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)
2013      Gender Identity Disorder relisted as Gender Dysphoria in fifth edition of *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5)*