



QUEER WOMEN OF COLOR MEDIA ARTS PROJECT

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- Filmmaker Training
- Queer Women of Color Film Festival
- Distribution

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For Immediate Release

TWO-SPIRITS: LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, QUEER NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN
Queer Women of Color Film Festival

San Francisco — When Columbus arrived in the Americas, Two-Spirits: lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ) Native Americans, were revered and honored in their cultures as ambassadors, treaty negotiators and spiritual leaders. Early Spanish colonists destroyed Two-Spirits by tearing them apart with dogs. English settlers, whose religious beliefs were intolerant of LGBT people, coercively reshaped long-held Native American cultural traditions. The “discovery” of the Americas marks the beginning of the destruction of Native American societies and the important spiritual and cultural position of Two-Spirits.

Although their histories were forcibly silenced, Two-Spirit people have continuously fought to reclaim their voices. Their often-unheard stories place a different spin on notions like “traditional values” and issues like same-sex marriage and immigration. These narratives are also a source of healing for Two-Spirits and the larger Native American and LGBTQ communities.

On Saturday, June 12, 2010, the FREE 6th annual Queer Women of Color Film Festival focuses on “Two-Spirits: Reclaiming Remembrance” in partnership with Native American filmmakers, and community organizations through a Featured Screening. In addition, the Festival Focus events includes a special celebration of blessings, performances, and readings that honor the stories of queer Native American, Indigenous, First Nations women through song, dance, and ritual. There will be a special community reception after the celebration, at the Brava Theater in the heart of San Francisco’s Mission District.

The celebrations of Two-Spirit Native American artists include performances from singers, poets, writers, drummers, dancers and musicians. Singers include, **Jaynie Lara** (Yaqui/Mexican American) a traditional drummer, singer & poet who sang for the Council of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers celebration. Lara will sing with Two Spirit Xicana/Yaqui feminist writer and organizer **Michelle Zamora**, who has been a ceremonial singer/drummer in her prayer community since 2006 and is currently a Ph.D. Candidate at Stanford University. Performer **Kali Boyce** who has traveled from teenage punk band appearances at CBGBs in NYC, to solo Drag King blues performance, will perform as King TuffNStuff and bless the stage. Additionally, Berkeley based, **In Xochitl In Cuicatl a Calpulli**, a cultural circle and dance group, will perform indigenous ritual dances that are known as Danza Azteca-Chichimeca.

Poets and writers **Marlon Footracer** (Navajo), **Aja Couchois Duncan** (Ojibwe, French and Scottish), and **Jewelle Gomez** (Ioway/Wampanoag/Cape Verdean) will provide the lyrical through language and verse. **Footracer** a Navajo storyteller/scholar from Lupton, AZ, will perform poems around memory, language (loss), and history. **Couchois Duncan** forthcoming Marimbo Press chapbook is *Nomenclature, Miigaadiwn, A Forked Tongue*. And **Gomez** is a writer and activist and author of *The Gilda Stories, Oral Tradition; Forty-Three Septembers Don't Explain*, and recipient of literature fellowships from the NEA and the California Arts Council.

Artists such as **L. Frank Manriquez** (Tongva/Ajachmem) and **Celia Herrera Rodríguez** will provide visual dialogues. **Manriquez** works in language and light with indigenous communities worldwide and **Rodríguez'** art reflects a full generation of dialogue with Chicano, Native American, Pre-Columbian, and Mexican thought.

Moreover, blessings include from elder **Don Little Cloud Davenport**. **Davenport** has received numerous awards for his community work, including the Koshland Civic Unity Award from the San Francisco Foundation and Oakland Outstanding Service Award. A graduate of the University of Michigan, he is the Executive Director of the San Antonio Community Development Corporation in East Oakland and a founding elder of the Black Native American Association

Festival Focus events are funded by: the California Story Fund of the California Council for the Humanities, California Arts Council, San Francisco Arts Commission Cultural Equity Grants, the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice and other funders. The public is invited to attend the upcoming free 6th annual Queer Women of Color Film Festival. QWOCMAP is excited to celebrate Two-Spirits' stories and 10 years of creating films, filmmakers and community.

What: Queer Women of Color Film Festival Focus:
"Two-Spirits: Reclaiming Remembrance"

When: Saturday, June 12, 2010

4:00 pm: Performance with Two-Spirit Artists

Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project Celebrates its

6th ANNUAL QUEER WOMEN OF COLOR FILM FESTIVAL, JUNE 11-13, 2010

7:00 pm: “Two- Spirits: Reclaiming Remembrance” Screening

Followed by Q&A with filmmakers & special reception.

All Queer Women of Color Film Festival events are free and open to the public.

Where: Brava Theater, 2789 24th Street, San Francisco, CA

~About Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project~

The free annual Queer Women of Color Film Festival is one of many artistic programs that Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project (QWOCMAP) offers to queer women of color and the larger community. QWOCMAP creates, exhibits and distributes new films that authentically reflect the lives of queer women of color and address the vital social justice issues that concern American communities.