



Still Here Still Queer
Episode 101: Forever And A Day

Director
Sol Gallardo

Producer
Zander Cooper

Runtime: 26 minutes, 27 seconds

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Series Logline

Gay men who lived through the AIDS crisis are part of a generation that's smaller than it should be. *Still Here Still Queer* explores how the lives they live now are shaped by the love, hustle, and faith that helped them survive the closet and a plague.

Episode Logline

Ken and Mack have been inseparable romantic partners for 26 years, despite discrimination, AIDS, and the closet. How did they do it?

Brief Summary

Ken and Mack have been inseparable romantic partners for 26 years, despite discrimination, AIDS, and the closet. How did they do it? Ken was born in 1946 England when homosexuality was criminalized and coming out felt impossible. Mack was born into a family that accepted his gay identity from an early age. What started as a spark of interest online blossomed into something eternal despite the challenges. Together, they confront the closet, identity, and HIV, as they build a life rooted in profound, enduring love.



Extended Summary

Ken and Mack have been in love for twenty-seven years, despite AIDS, discrimination, and the closet. This episode is their love story.

Ken Baron grew up in England at a time when being gay brought upon stigma and state sanction, so he learned early to keep that part of himself hidden. Like many men of his generation, he followed the path expected of him.

He moved to the United States. He earned his PhD. He built a career at General Motors. He even married a woman and started a family. At first glance, his life appeared complete. But privately, he withheld his gay identity from the people in the life he was creating.

This is when Mack came into his life.

Mack Scott came of age in a different environment. With his mother's support, he came out as a teenager, and by fourteen, he had his first boyfriend. These experiences shaped how he moved through the world. He never felt the need to compromise or conceal, forging ahead with a quiet certainty about himself.

Ken and Mack met in 1999, both well into adulthood and pursuing vastly different lives. What began as a spark of interest online flourished into something consistent over time. Their love did not unfold quickly nor did it come without complication.

Over time, Mack has encouraged Ken to live openly and be more honest about his life. Ken eventually came out to his children and ended his marriage. Intimacy is something that the couple holds dearly – everyday moments of touch take on new meaning in the shadow of AIDS-era discrimination and fear.



Extended Summary

The episode "Forever and a Day" is an exploration of what it means to build a life around the notion of enduring love. Through a steady rhythm of shared routines, Ken and Mack never spend a day apart. In January 2026, Ken celebrated his 80th birthday with Mack by his side.

In their third chapter, they make the most of their time together. After all these years, they choose each other, forever and a day, always.



Showrunner's Statement

When I started looking for men who had experienced the reversal of fortune that hit gay men in the early 1980's, I assumed that I was going to make a doc series about ageism and loneliness. Perhaps I was projecting my own internalized hopelessness onto a group of men who had been stolen from me. When I was growing up, I knew two things would happen to me if I came out. First, I would get AIDS and then I would go to Hell. After I had my first gay kiss, I spent a year wondering if it would be the death of me. I called an HIV hotline and a nurse explained the difference between blood and saliva. I spent a lot of time imagining what Hell would be like. Perhaps if I had had access to a few gay men who were older and wiser, they could have held my hand and tried to convince me what in the world might be possible: love, fun, and even faith in a God who had made me just as I am.

Now I do have access to older and wiser gay men, and the ones I asked to participate in this doc series are ambitious, hungry to live, eager to do something with the years that had been denied to many of their contemporaries. In them, I see what straight people see when they look at their parents and grandparents: a future for myself. I also see the past more clearly. Queer existence before my time was varied, interesting, and more complicated than the media typically suggests. Film and television tend to pop out just a few varieties of gay men, and even fewer over forty. I needed more options. I developed *Still Here Still Queer* so that I could find them.

-Duncan Teater



Director's Statement

Forever and a Day began with a question that felt both deeply personal and quietly universal: What does it mean to grow old with the person you love in a world that once denied you that future, when so many like you never lived long enough to reach it? A world that tells you who you are is wrong; where accepting yourself becomes an act of defiance.

Ken and Mack's story unfolded in the small, intimate gestures of their daily life; brushing teeth side by side, preparing coffee, moving through space with a rhythm only time can build. These rituals became the emotional architecture of the film. I was less interested in grand declarations of love and more drawn to the quiet evidence of it; the kind that accumulates over decades, almost invisibly, until it becomes inseparable from who you are.

Formally, I wanted the film to feel grounded and observational, inviting the audience to inhabit their world without interruption. The camera lingers—patient, curious—moving at the rhythm of a life fully lived rather than rushed. At the same time, I sought moments where past and present could exist together, where memory is porous and time folds in on itself; revealing the weight of what this love has endured, and making its moments of joy feel even more profound. In these subtle ruptures, the film begins to breathe beyond documentation, reaching toward something more poetic: the understanding that love is not linear, but cumulative.

As a filmmaker, I am consistently drawn to stories of those who exist on the margins; people whose lives challenge dominant narratives about identity, belonging, and longevity. Growing up between borders, I became acutely aware of the lives that are often rendered invisible. In queer history, especially, there is a persistent narrative of loss, of lives cut short, of futures denied. While that truth is undeniable, I wanted this film to exist as a counterpoint: a testament to endurance, to care, and to the radical act of imagining a future when none was promised.

Through the quiet ordinariness of their love, Ken and Mack reveal something deeply extraordinary. Forever and a Day is, ultimately, a meditation on time, devotion, and the courage it takes to build a life together and to keep choosing one another in a world like the one we live in— day after day, over a lifetime

-Sol Gallardo



Key Participants



Dr. Ken Scott Baron

Dr. Ken Scott Baron was born in 1946 in the UK where he graduated with a B.Sc. He emigrated to the U.S. where he did graduate work in chemistry specializing in nanotechnology. He then worked for General Motors on automobile emissions, leading to patents on the catalytic converter. In 1999, he met his lifelong partner and husband, Mack Scott Baron and is enjoying his 27 years of love, friendship and marriage. Mack and Ken have three adult children. Ken's hobbies include gardening, podcasting and photography. He is a passionate advocate for civil rights and has won a Life Time Achievement Award with the National Association of Black and White Men Together.

Mack Scott Baron

Mack Scott Baron was born on March 22, 1957 to Mary and Mack Scott Jr. in San Diego. At the age of five, he moved to Los Angeles after his parents separated. After six years, he relocated back to San Diego due to his interest in soccer. After graduating from high school, he moved back to Los Angeles to go to a two-year and then a four-year college. After graduating from California State University, Dominguez Hills, he became an elementary school teacher for Los Angeles Unified School District. Mack taught for LAUSD for over thirty plus years before retiring in June 2021.



Being a teacher enriched his life, as he will forever be connected to his former students, parents, community and colleagues. In 1999, he met his soulmate and best friend, Dr. Kenneth Scott Baron. They have been married for almost 27 years. According to Mack, his marriage to Ken has changed his life for the better. He is truly honored as well as fortunate to have met and married the best person he has ever known.

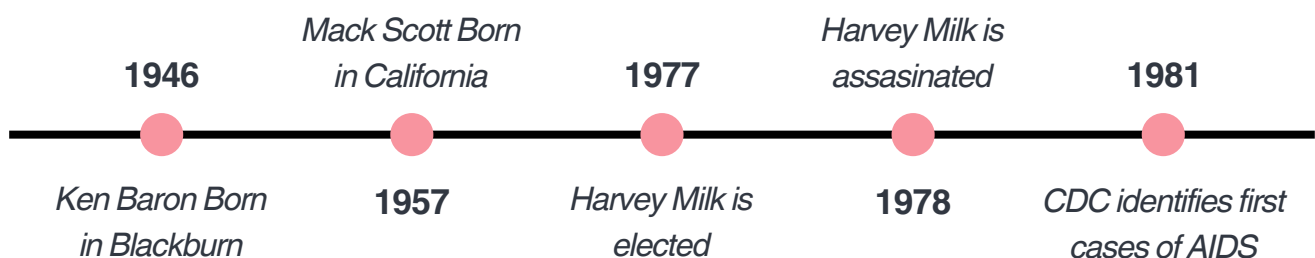


Additional Context

In 1977, Harvey Milk was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. In 1978, he was assassinated. In 1981, the CDC identified a cluster of five homosexual men in Los Angeles who were all infected with a rare kind of pneumonia. AIDS was the ultimate reversal of fortune for gay men. The modest freedoms and hints of acceptance that had emerged throughout the 20th century were overwhelmed by a merciless plague and a new tide of homophobia.

This series highlights men who had experienced the hope of Milk's election and the subsequent nightmare of the AIDS pandemic. The anti-queer movement seeks to send all but the most well-behaved members of the LGBTQ+ coalition back into the closet. Progress more generally seems to have stalled out, and all kinds of people feel like the world is stuck or going in reverse.

But the men in our series have seen much worse. In spite of AIDS and the power of the closet, they are still here, and they are still queer. Our series is powered by the laughter, love, grit, ambition, courage, and hope of their stories.



Key Team

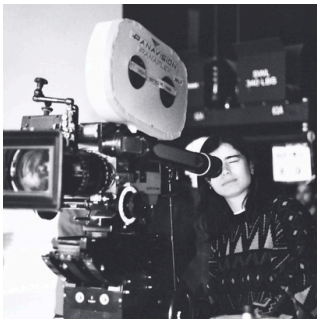
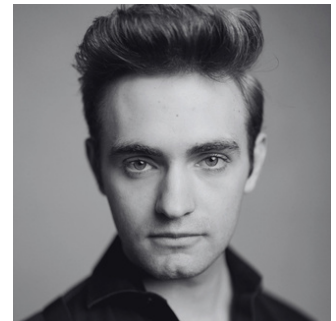


Sol Gallardo *Director*

Marisol “Sol” Gallardo is a Mexican filmmaker from Ciudad Juárez, a U.S.–Mexico border town that shaped her lens on migration, identity, and resilience. After moving to Mainland China to pursue a Business degree at NYU Shanghai, she began documenting the city’s rapid Westernization and the lives of expats seeking reinvention. After a successful career in advertising at Publicis Groupe, Sol shifted to filmmaking and is now pursuing her MFA in Film & TV Production at USC’s School of Cinematic Arts as a George Lucas Family Foundation Scholar and Annenberg Fellow. Her work as a director and editor explores themes of cultural displacement, connection, and transformation.

Zander Cooper *Producer*

Zander Cooper is a filmmaker and producer from Utah, currently a USC Production MFA candidate, and producing Episode 101 of the documentary series. A Weber State University graduate (summa cum laude), he founded the school’s first film organization and launched an international film festival. Zander previously ran an independent production company and worked with the Davis Catalyst Center, an innovative, equity-driven hub for career and technical education, where he mentored students in advanced production. The youngest member of his USC MFA cohort and an Annenberg Fellow, Zander creates award-winning work centered on queer storytelling.



Kira Upin *Director of Photography*

Kira Upin is a graduate student at USC’s School of Cinematic Arts (Class of 2027), in TV and film production, specifically in cinematography. Over the past four years, she has worked on set as a Director of Photography and assistant camera for numerous professional and student productions. With a strong interest in narrative short, feature films, and documentaries, she especially likes to consider the role of women and other underrepresented groups and how they are portrayed. In addition, she particularly enjoys the horror and drama genres. In 2023, Kira graduated from Duke University with a degree in Visual and Media Studies, with a concentration in cinematic arts and a minor in Chinese.



Key Team

Emily Hamilton-Hill *Editor*

Emily Hamilton-Hill is a MFA candidate at The University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts. With a focus on directing and editing, Emily is passionate about collaborating with her fellow filmmakers and telling diverse stories that reflect our ever-changing world.



Susan Allen Jones *Editor*

Susan Allena Jones is a passionate filmmaker dedicated to telling stories of women and marginalized communities with honesty, vigor, and humor. She enjoys crafting inclusive and collaborative community in all stages of project development, but most especially on set as a writer/director and in post-production as an editor. She believes a moment can be cinematic, a lifetime can be expressed in a single line of great dialogue, and only through intentional storytelling can humanity find its way back to itself.

Liam Flanigan *Sound*

Liam Flanigan is a filmmaker from Bexley, Ohio. He graduated from the University of Chicago in 2022 with a degree in history and a minor in cinema and media studies. In addition to his experience in film development, production, and programming, he has worked on several shows and is a proud member of the Dramatists Guild.



Yilong Yang *Sound*

Yilong Yang is originally from Harbin, China. He began playing the suona and piano at the age of four. Snowboarding is one of his greatest passions. He graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a degree in Film and Media Studies and is currently pursuing an MFA in Film & Television Production at the University of Southern California.

Duncan Teater *Creator + Showrunner*

Duncan is an award-winning filmmaker currently pursuing a Masters of Fine Arts at the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts. He is a recipient of both USC's Annenberg Fellowship and the School of Cinematic Arts Student Impact Award, recognizing his "body of work dedicated to social impact, building community, and



groundbreaking efforts to empower a wide range of voices and perspectives."



Gallery



Gallery



Gallery

